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J. H. Schneller, 1412 Avon street, La Crosse, Wisconsin, writes: "Hypnotism truly reveals the secrets of life and the mysteries of nature. My own father could not have convinced me of its wonderful power if I had not actually tested it for myself. I consider a knowledge of it invaluable to those who wish to get the most out of life; to those who wish to achieve success and

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Mrs. Effie M. Watson, Martinsville, Ind., writes: "Hypnotism opens the road to health, happiness and prosperity. It should be studied by everyone. I would not part with my knowledge of it for any amount. The instructions have developed within me a force of character, an ability to influence and control people that I did not dream I could acquire."

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Rev. T. W. Butler, Ph. D., Idaho City, Idaho, writes: "I have cured a number of chronic cases of rheumatism, dyspepsia and paralysis of long standing; have not had a single failure; I consider a knowledge of Personal Magnetism invaluable. The book has greatly increased my own powers."

Dr. W. P. Kennicutt, 529 State street, Binghamton, N. Y., writes: "I had long suffered from nervous prostration and dyspepsia. My case baffled all medical skill. I studied hypnotism from the American College of Sciences, and tried it upon myself with surprising results. In one week my stomach was better than it had been in thirty years. I could eat anything without the slightest distress. I can hypnotize myself in five minutes and sleep all night; have hypnotized a number of others."

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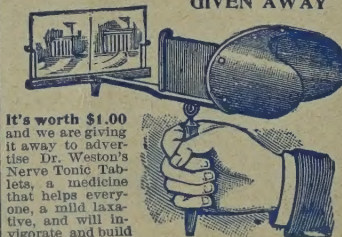
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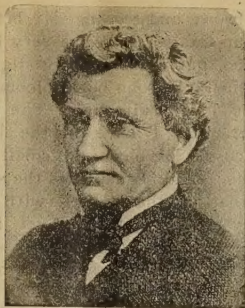


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JAMES VICK
Founder and First Editor

VICK'S FAMILY MAGAZINE

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NO. 11

Cercis or Redbud.

After our long and dreary winters, the early flowering shrubs and trees appeal most strongly to our sense of the beautiful in nature, and the pleasure of returning spring is greatly accentuated by their bright and cheerful colors. Among the earliest of these, blooming in this latitude (Rochester, N. Y.) during the first half of May, the *Cercis* or Redbud is one of the most attractive.

Seven species of *Cercis* are now distinguished. They are found in North America, Europe, the Orient, and in Central and Eastern Asia. The name *Cercis*, given by Linnaeus, is from the Greek name of the tree, derived from a fancied resemblance in the fruit to a weaver's implement of the same name. The type of the genus, *Cercis Siliquastrum*, is widely distributed in Southern Europe and in the Orient. The blossoms are bright purple, though there are varieties with flesh colored and white flowers. The wood of this species is veined with black and is very beautiful; it takes an excellent polish and may be utilized for many purposes.

Cercis Canadensis is a native species widely distributed in the United States. Mr. Sargent, in the *Silva* of North America, says that "It extends from the valley of the Delaware River in New Jersey to the shores of Tampa Bay, Northern Alabama and Mississippi, and ranges westward to Missouri, the eastern borders of the Indian Territory, Louisiana, and the valley of the Brazos River in Texas, and reappears on the northeastern slopes of the Sierra Madre of Nuevo Leon. It is a common tree in all this region in glades by the borders of swamps, and on rich bottom lands, forming, especially west of the Alleghany Mountains, an abundant undergrowth to the forests. It grows in immense numbers and to its largest size in southern Arkansas, the Indian Territory and eastern Texas, where in early spring, when its branches are covered with brilliant flowers, it makes a beautiful and conspicuous feature of the landscape." The wood of *Cercis Canadensis* is heavy and hard, though not very strong, and it is rather coarse grained.

Though the natural habitat of *Cercis Canadensis* is in the milder regions of the United States, it can be successfully grown far north of its native home. It is perfectly hardy here in Rochester, but is reported tender at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Canada. It was cultivated in English gardens as early as 1730, and the first description of it was published by Plunket in 1696.

The common name of *Cercis* is Redbud, given on account of the dark red calyx of the rosy-pink

flowers which so profusely cover the branches. Another common, but not popular name, is Judas Tree, so called on account of a tradition that Judas hung himself on a tree of this kind. It would hardly seem possible that in this enlightened age any prejudice could be felt against the *Cercis* on account of this tradition, but an intelligent person once said to the writer that she would never have a *Judas Tree* on her lawn. For the benefit of those superstitiously inclined I will say there is also a tradition that it was on an Elder that Judas hung himself, and one tradition is quite as well



CERCIS CHINENSIS.

substantiated as the other. So a person can, without any scruples of conscience, give the pretty *Cercis* the benefit of the doubt, and if the botanical name seems too stilted for common use, call it by the very appropriate and easily remembered name of Redbud, letting Judas Tree drop into oblivion.

Cercis Canadensis is one of the finest ornamental trees which we have. It grows best in a deep, rich, sandy, somewhat moist loam, but will adapt itself quite readily to other soils and to conditions not apparently the most favorable. It is most successfully transplanted when young, and will produce flowers when only four or five years old.

In its native habitat it attains a height of forty or fifty feet, but with us it rarely grows taller than a large shrub, or less than twenty feet high. If given space for development it will in time form a broad-branched, flat-topped shrub, irregular but symmetrical in shape and ornamental at all seasons of the year.

It is when in bloom, however, that the Redbud displays its greatest beauty. In early May, before the leaves start, it is completely covered with delicate, rose-colored flowers, which, as the shrubs grow older cover the branches so thickly as almost

to hide them from view. Anything more elegant, more beautiful, or more conspicuous than the Redbud when in full bloom, cannot be imagined. Though the blossoms are small, they are so profusely borne that the whole shrub seems at a distance as if covered with a rosy veil. As grown at Highland Park, in this city, on a hillside, with the delicate pink blossoms showing against the pale, tender green of some willows, the effect is absolutely charming. The Redbud blooms at the same time as the Chinese Magnolias and may be effectively grouped with them, or in the border with trees of similar growth whose flowers will harmoniously blend in color. As single specimens they are also very beautiful and attractive.

The leaves of the Redbud do not appear until after the flowers; they are heart-shaped, of a glossy pure green color above and grayish-green beneath. In the autumn they turn to a bright clear yellow. The leaves are ornamental as well as the blossoms.

Cercis Chinensis (or *C. Japonica*) grows naturally in the provinces of Central and Northern China. It is also found in Japan, where it is thought to have been introduced. It is a very ornamental shrub, of medium size and rounded form, with heart-shaped leaves of a deep, shining green. The flowers are larger than those of *C. Canadensis* and of a deeper color, verging on a reddish purple. They grow in bunches of a dozen or more together, appearing on the old wood as well as on the new growth, and covering the branches with a solid mass of blossoms. It is one of the finest shrubs in cultivation, but unfortunately for us at the North it is not entirely hardy here. It is said it cannot be successfully grown farther north than New York City. Some fine specimens are growing at Highland Park, but the Superintendent, Mr. John Dunbar, says it is necessary to mulch around the stems with leaves or manure, and that though grown in a protected situation the flower buds on the upper part of the branches are frequently injured. In exposed situations it would not be possible to grow this species here, Florence Beckwith.

COTYLEDONS.

(Written for Vick's Family Magazine.)

These plants, sometimes called Echeverias, are much used in ornamental gardening in parks. Their regularity of form, together with the many different colors recommend them to the designer of fancy carpet and flower beds of mosaic and profile patterns.

Any amateur with a little taste and skill can lay out a miniature bed in the garden, such as a star, clover leaf, heart and so forth. Planting in this style admits of unlimited variety in form of beds and in contrasts of colors, but planting in ribbon lines and massing in colors are in more general use than carpet bedding, as it costs less, the plants not needing to be put so closely together. Two or more lines of color planted along drives or margins of walks have a good effect.

The dwarf cotyledons supply small offsets very rapidly. As soon as the young shoot appears on the side of the parent stem, remove with the aid of a sharp knife. Plant in sandy soil, keep dry and shady for a few days, and then gradually expose them to the sun. After they have taken root, the more sunshine they have the better. The sun brings out the rich tints of the plants, and heightens their effect. They require little water, and a well-drained sandy soil suits them best. They will endure long droughts provided the drainage is good. Such varieties as *Metallica*, *Edulis*, *Linearis*, are propagated by seeds, by offsets of the flower stems, and by cutting out the heart of the plant, which induces it to throw out offsets. These varieties seldom make offsets otherwise. The easiest method is to take off the flower stems, which come early in the season, cut off the embryo flowers, and cut the stems in short pieces. Place in pots of sandy soil. These stems will root and produce little offsets from the axils of the flower-stem leaves. When the little plants are large enough, remove and root them.

Cotyledon secunda glauca may be found in every park; it has pretty glaucous leaves. *Cotyledon metallica grandis* is a noble plant. The leaves are often eight inches long, very solid and fleshy. They show many shades as one looks at them, a rich crimson, a deep dark brown, a pretty shade of dark green, while over all flows the brilliant metallic lustre. When grown in the sun it colors up beautifully. The plant in the engraving is *C. atropurpurea*, that grows to be a miniature tree two feet high, with a trunk two inches in diameter. The stem has a greyish bark upon it and it becomes curiously knotted with age, like an old oak tree. The leaves are gorgeous in purplish red and dark shining green, the corolla a pale green.

C. arborea is very similar; the leaves are of the same shape, but a trifle shorter, and are finely toothed along the margins, of a pleasing shade of pale green, sometimes touched with pink. This variety is called "banyan tree echeveria," as the plant throws out long aerial rootlets, that hang down and finally, upon touching the soil, take root and throw out new plants. It is quite curious in its manner of growth. The bark of the stems is curiously wrinkled and the blossoms are white, in large clusters.

While the individual flowers of the cotyledons are small, the clusters of some varieties are very large and are so much angled that they hold far apart the dainty blooms. The stems are long and wiry and swing with a freedom that holds a charm. The colors are red, and yellow in various shades, pure white, heavy and wax-like in appearance, and last for weeks. Many have a sweet scent, some emitting a rare vanilla-like odor. Every summer our cotyledons are bright-

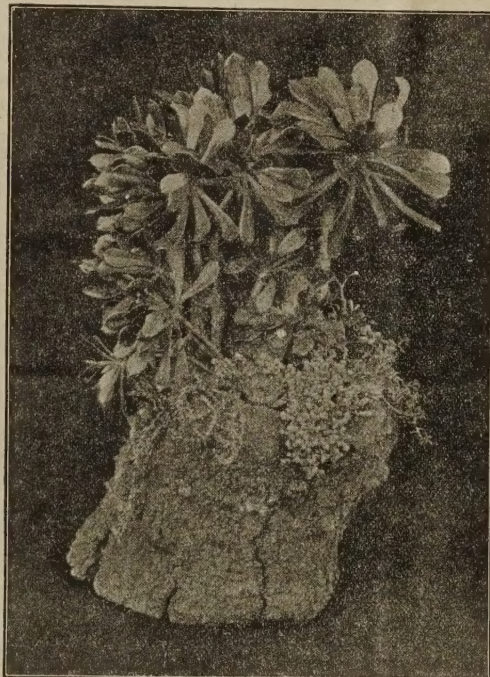
ened with gay little humming birds. They dip their long bills into the flowers and dart about from one to another like flashes of light. They become very tame, and one of them preened its feathers every day within a foot of our door. Some varieties of the cotyledons make admirable pot plants; they require very little care, and will endure the hottest sunshine.

C. edulis is called "finger-tips." It has leaves as round as a lead pencil, three to four inches long, and bright green in color.

C. lanceolata has beautiful lanceolate leaves of a pretty dark green, spotted with crimson.

C. pulverulenta is thickly covered with a white powder.

C. desmetliana is lovely for pots or vases on a pedestal. The fleshy leaves form a dense rosette and show blue and grayish green and pale green shades. The underside of the leaf is tinted a dull red, and each leaf is tipped with a crimson thorn. In a pot it spills over the rim, the plants growing out at the sides, and pushing their neigh-



COTYLEDON ATROPURPUREA.

bor over the brim of the pot. If grown in a tree stump, similar to the one in the cut, the little plants throw out rootlets and attach themselves to the sides of the stump, in time completely covering it. A collection of these plants always excites interest and admiration.

Eleanor M. Lucas.

DOWN IN MY PIT.

(Written for Vick's Family Magazine.)

It has been a beautiful sunny day, such as we often have in—January breaking our winter in two in the middle—so I have been cleaning house in my pit, changing my jars around, stirring the soil and killing out some aphids that have been taking advantage of me.

Living as I do in an old-fashioned farmhouse, I cannot have my plants in the windows, which are too small and high from the floor. I keep them in a pit covered with hot-bed sash, and on very cold nights I spread an old comfortable over the glass, and slip the sash in the middle of the day to give them air. How green and nice it is in there, while all

outside is bare and brown and frozen. My brightest jar is of Buttercup Oxalis, I have a very large pink one in bloom too, but it is not so prodigal a bloomer. My Freesias will soon be in bloom and *Primula obconica* is lovely already. The best winter blooming Geranium I have, is the little dwarf Mars. The trusses of bloom are small but it blooms all the time. Mad. Bruant has the sulks and I don't know what is the matter with the others. I guess they haven't got rested yet from the bloom they gave me last summer. A small *Abutilon*, *Infanta Eulalie*, is literally blooming itself to death.

My lovely *Smilax* vine I cut off at Christmas for a bride to wear, but it is making rapid growth now. I have a beautiful plant of *Farfugium* in a shady corner. My *Callas* are thrifty but do not bloom. My *Manettia*, so pretty last winter and spring, has not recovered from a nipping Jack Frost gave it last fall. The plants I am proudest of are two Easter Cactuses. They are loaded with buds and I note how much they swell from day to day.

H. A. T.

THE SNOW STORM.

Announced by all the trumpets of the sky,
Arrives the snow, and, driving o'er the fields,
Seems nowhere to alight; the whited air
Hides hills and woods, the river and the heaven,
And veils the farm-house at the garden's end.
The sled and traveller stopped, the courier's feet
Delayed, all friends shut out, the housemates sit
Around the radiant fireplace, enclosed
In a tumultuous privacy of storm.

Come and see the north winds' masonry.
Out of an unseen quarry evermore
Furnished with tile, the fierce artificer
Curves his white bastions with projected roof
Round every windward stake, or tree, or door,
Speeding, the myriad-handed, his wild work
So fanciful, so savage; nought cares he,
For number or proportion. Mockingly,
On coop or kennel he hangs Parian wreaths;
A swan-like form invests the hidden thorn;
Fills up the farmer's lane from wall to wall,
Maugre the farmer's sighs; and at the gate
A tapering turret overtops the work.
And when his hours are numbered, and the world
Is all his own, retiring, as he were not,
Leaves, when the sun appears, astonished Art
To mimic in slow structures, stone by stone,
Built in an age, the mad wind's night work,
The frolic architecture of the snow.

Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Nature Plus Art.

One ingenious schoolboy in this vicinity evidently believes in attempting to improve upon nature, if one of his recent acts can be taken as an indication. Desiring to show his appreciation for his teacher, he brings her flowers whenever he can get them, and has appeared several times a week with bright-hued blossoms, geraniums among the lot. The cluster of scarlet flowers which he carefully deposited a few days ago upon the desk with a smiling, "Here, teacher!" looked as if he had made a wholesale raid upon his mother's favorite plant. The peculiar perfume of the flowers attracted the attention of the teacher, and in answer to her comment and words of thanks the little fellow said: "You see, I put some cologne on them to make them smell nicer!"—*Brooklyn Eagle*.

HERBACEOUS HYDRANGEAS.

The herbaceous Hydrangeas are favorites with all who grow them, and should be in the list of all flower-lovers as indispensable plants, combining, as they do, elegant foliage and beautiful flowers with ease of culture, long duration of bloom and magnificent display. For pot culture, they are very desirable; for decorative effect on the veranda or its approaches no flowering plant can excel them; and as single specimens on the lawn they are exceedingly ornamental. They can be propagated from cuttings of young or partially ripened wood, and can be forced in the greenhouse for Easter flowering.

Hydrangeas require a rich soil made up of a mixture of loam, leaf mold, sand and cow manure, or artificial fertilizer. They will thrive in partial shade, but blossom best in the full sunshine, if a liberal supply of water is given them. When grown in pots or tubs and exposed to the rays of the sun, they should be watered freely twice a day, and a thorough all-over syringing in the evening is productive of good results. A supply of artificial fertilizer, or watering with manure water when the flowers are developing will be very beneficial, tending to produce large panicles of bloom.

When the leaves begin to fade water should be gradually withheld, and the plants should be kept in a dry cool place during the winter, watering just enough to prevent them from drying up. If allowed to rest during December and January, they are usually ready to start into growth in February, when they should be repotted, brought to the light, and plenty of water supplied. Pruning the plants is a very necessary practice. They can either be cut back in the fall or before growth starts in the spring. By cutting the plants severely back, nearly to the ground, very large panicles of bloom can be obtained, sometimes so large that it is necessary to furnish them support. If only slightly pruned, or cut back to two or three pairs of buds, the panicles will be smaller but more of them will be produced, and the general effect is certainly more graceful. When pruning, the weak shoots should be cut out.

When grown in tubs for lawn decoration, the soil can be renewed by taking off two or three inches from the top and digging in a supply of manure or ground bone. An old plant will require a large box or tub in order to produce strong branches for the next year's bloom. Particular care should be taken to have the drainage good, as large plants require a great quantity of water, but it should not stand around the roots.

The beautifully colored panicles of the varieties most generally cultivated are very attractive, and their gradual change of color, from green to pink, deepening in some to a pale rose, and then back again to green, is a very interesting process to watch. The changes are so gradual that the flowers last for months and are beautiful in all stages of development. Even after the blossoms fade, the foliage still makes the plant ornamental.

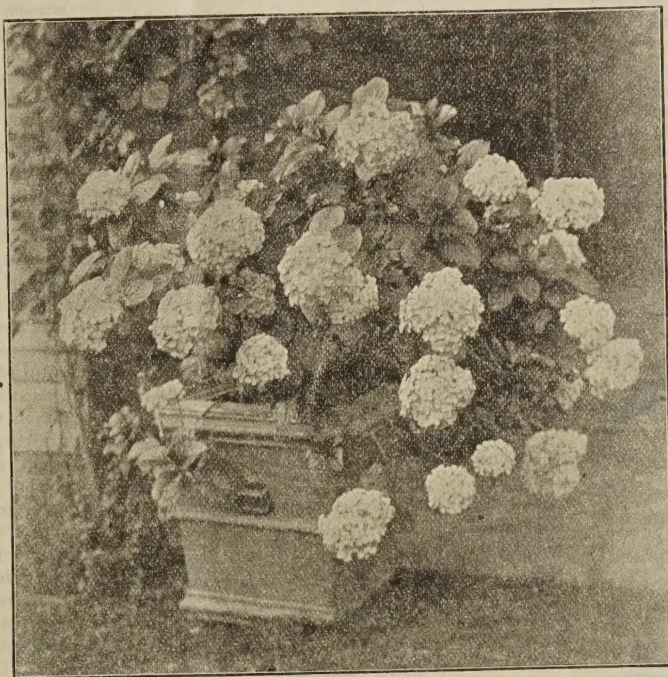
The flowers of the Hydrangea sometimes turn blue from some chemical constituent of the soil, and this color can be artificially produced by giving the plant a solution of alum and water. Iron in small quantities in the soil will produce the same effect.

Hydrangea *Mortensis* and its varieties, are largely used for out-door decoration in tubs and boxes, and are sometimes made to assume large proportions.

An immense specimen, grown at Woods Holl, Mass., was pictured in "American Gardening" in 1900. The plant measured ten feet in diameter and bore four hundred eighty-two trusses of bloom.

Hydrangea *Otaksa* is a very handsome variety with rich, dark green leaves and large heads of pale pink or flesh-colored blossoms. The flower stems have a pinkish tint, and even the little stems of the individual florets are a lovely, delicate pink. Plants of *Otaksa* sometimes grow eight feet high with a diameter of sixteen feet, and bear immense round heads of bloom. Our illustration shows a very pretty plant, grown with ordinary care, which afforded much pleasure to passers-by last summer, as well as to its owner. Half a dozen or more large specimens, loaded with bloom, placed along a driveway, made a beautiful feature in the surroundings of a country home not far from this city. The possessor was certainly to be envied the magnificent display.

The Red-Branded Hydrangea is a striking



HYDRANGEA OTAKSA.

plant in appearance, even when not in bloom. The stems, or branches, are of a dark, blackish crimson, which brightens or grows lighter near the flower heads. The trusses of bloom are very large and last for months, changing from pale green to pink, to a beautiful shade of deep rose, and then to green again. The panicles of bloom are very large, sometimes almost out of proportion to the size of the plants, which begin to blossom when very small.

Well-grown specimens of Hydrangeas are very beautiful and sure to give a great deal of pleasure to their possessors, and they are not so numerously cultivated as to be common. Considering how very little trouble they are, one is very sure of a rich return for the care bestowed.

Florence Beckwith.

FLORAL CHAT.

(Written for Vick's Family Magazine.)

Some one has said the culture of flowers is a pleasure that brings no pain. This may be true in the abstract, but I verily believe there are times in the experience of many an amateur florist when the saying would be more significant if its order

were reversed. For instance, we may have paid a high price for some choice plant, and when it comes to bloom we find a very inferior thing; again, we may labor and coax our plants for a few blossoms in winter, but not one solitary flower do we get for our pains, and finally console ourselves with the green leaves, if we can get them through the winter without having them freeze.

“Why do the roses have thorns, dear?
Why do you ask it of me?
Could it be otherwise destined
Since compensation must be?
Why are there shadows with sunshine?
Why are there nights after morns?
Standards must equal, my darling—
That's why roses have thorns.

Gladly we welcome spring sunshine and if we can control our enthusiasm when the spring catalogues arrive, we are masters of the situation.

To me a home without flowers is dull and cheerless, and a few well grown plants look much prettier than a lot of neglected ones. If I were limited to just one plant it would be an *Otaheite Orange*; it is an evergreen pot shrub, begins to bloom when very small and is never without either flowers or golden fruit, and many times is loaded with both. It is a very accommodating plant, is not easily affected by the cold or dust, requires the same soil as a *Geranium*, and loves sunshine and water. I am particularly partial to the *Champion* of the *World rose*. All who love roses in the window garden should include the *Champion*. Treat it as you do the most hardy of the window plants and you will succeed. It can be grown in the open ground in Nebraska and will give an abundance of flowers from early spring until late in the fall. Another shrub which is deserving of more attention in the west, where it is so difficult to get anything that will not winter-kill, is the *Tamarix Africanus*. We got a tiny slip five years ago, it is now a beauty, nine or ten feet high and branching in every direction. In the spring it is a pyramid of pink, and before the blossoms fall it covers itself with beautiful feathery foliage

and looks very much like an evergreen. The *Rocky Mountain Cherry* of the catalogues, locally known as sand cherry, is a very desirable shrub, both in foliage and flower; the fruit is produced abundantly by every twig no matter how small; the cherries are jet black when ripe; cooked with apricots they make a marmalade equal to plum, which it resembles very much. The sand cherry is not affected by drought as its home is in the sand hills of the West, close by the yucca and cactus. Before I stop I would like to say a few words about the *Willow Morning Glory*; it is a biennial, grows to the height of three or four feet, and often as large around, producing its flowers from June till frost, by the hundreds.

Annettie B. Hoff.

The Tree of Life.

Plant patience in the garden of thy soul!

The roots are bitter, but the fruits are sweet.

And when, at last, it stands a tree complete

Beneath its tender shade the burning heat

And burden of the day shall lose control—

Plant patience in the garden of thy soul!

Henry Austin in Harper's Weekly.

THE PANSY AND PANSY FOLK-LORE.

(Written for Vick's Family Magazine.)



"THERE'S rosemary for remembrance, pray you, love, remember: and there is pansies, that's for thoughts." The play of Hamlet was written in the year fifteen hundred and ninety-seven. Pansies evidently were cultivated in English gardens over three hundred years ago. Although we know this much biographically, an authenticated origin of the pansy I believe is unknown.

But it is within the last half of the nineteenth century that the pansy has attained the gigantic proportions and vivid coloring of the present royal flower. The size has increased within the past twenty-eight or thirty years, but not so noticeably as the new varieties which have sprung into being. The spirit of evolution has the pansy in its grasp the same as many other things. In a Floral Guide dated eighteen hundred and seventy-two, pansies are described as follows: "Often plants that produce flowers, two and a half inches in diameter during the cool, showery weather of spring, will give only the smallest possible specimens during the dry weather of summer."

These were undoubtedly the very largest pansies in existence at that date. In a second catalogue bearing the date of nineteen hundred and one, the largest specimens measure over three inches in diameter. And where formerly there were thirteen named varieties, there are now more than forty catalogued. It is really unnecessary to make any comments. Only, if all other flowers increase in like proportions, in the same number of years, the floral world will forestall the millenium.

And when you gaze backward through a vista of years, and remember the quaint little Johnny-Jump-ups, which you may occasionally still find in some neglected corner of an old, old garden—though these occasions are rare indeed now—and compare them with the Giant Trimardeau class. It seems almost incredible that these same queer little fols, were the ancestors proper of such magnificent sons and daughters. The survival of the fittest has truly engendered a knightly race. For the pansies though belonging to the humble family of Violaceæ are a royal flower. In spite of their being emblems of modest worth and true affection, whose unaffected sweetness and modesty are ever themes for poets' songs, their rich coloring gives them precedence over many other flowers of more stately growth, and many of their names proclaim a patrician birth or noble environments. King of the Blacks, Fire King, Queen of the Fairies—these names all proclaim their right to sovereignty; while Emperors William and Frederick do homage to Germany's honored kings, and Victoria and Lord Beaconsfield to England's good Queen and Premier.

The local nomenclature of pansies has been both amusing and pretty. A pert little



name of English origin was Kitty-run-the-streets, probably owing to their rather promiscuous habit of spreading, and coming up in unexpected places. This was a local equivalent to the American Johnny-Jump-up.

The cruel stepmother is another name by which they were known to old-time folks. Though anything cruel in connection with sweet Viola tricolor, seems rather inappropriate. There is a quaint little legend attached to the stepmother myth, the dark purple petals being the proud own daughters, while the yellow ones below are the little pale; and, of course, misused stepdaughters, who occupy the humble place in the home. And the scarlet hood in the center belongs to the cruel stepmother herself. There does not seem to be very much foundation for such a fanciful tale, and it must have taken a person with a vivid imagination to have first thought it out. When you liken the sweet pansy face to a human one, there is a much stronger resemblance.

But one of the sweetest old-fashioned names the pansy was known by was Heartsease, and its mission was to soothe sorrow, and alleviate pain. That is a pretty conceit, though the pansy face to me always seems more piquant and saucy, than sad or sentimental. Yet loving laddies give them to their lassies, for do they not say: "Think of me," in their own language?

Sarah Rodney.

RAISE NUT TREES.

(Written for Vick's Family Magazine.)

Now that nuts are being recognized as a staple article of food rather than a luxury, it seems expedient that nut orchards become as necessary as the fruit orchard. This too, brings in the forestry question. Why not replant and raise a forest of nut trees where the original forests have been culled and thinned almost to depletion.

The delicious English walnut has been grown with success, too, in this country as far north as Lockport, N. Y. The writer procured a few nuts for planting from that place and now has a half-dozen or more young trees started. The grower says that the hard freeze which killed some of his apple trees did not harm his English walnuts. His father saw a tree in bearing in Philadelphia, and from a handful of these native grown nuts, raised a number of trees which bore the seed for starting a large orchard. English walnuts are so much more easily prepared for the table than our hardshell sorts that it makes them doubly desirable. Beechnuts, were they only larger, are very palatable, but it requires patience to prepare them in quantity. Chestnuts, when roasted, are very acceptable to a hungry boy—or without roasting, for that matter—though hard to digest.

This question of raising nuts as a staple article of food, will certainly involve the bird question. To protect the trees from the increasing depredations of insects, we must encourage the friendship of the birds.

Mrs. E. W. Putnam.



English Walnut.

LITTLE KNOWN BULBS.

Crocus Sativus or True Saffron.

This is the bulb that bears the flowers that yield the saffron of commerce. Saffron is the yellow powder made from the dried stigmas or threads from the centre of the bloom, which is in form and size similar to the spring flowering Crocus vernus. The latter is cultivated solely for ornament, while sativus is grown for its valuable yield of saffron. It is the only Crocus that blooms in the fall. The flowers are bright purple with long protruding yellow stigmas. The flowers and foliage appear almost simultaneously, but the foliage must be permitted to grow after the flowers have been cut; and it must be allowed to wither and die off, naturally. It is the leaves that store the starch in the bulbs that feed the flowers that yield the saffron the next season, gathering strength and forming new corms each year.

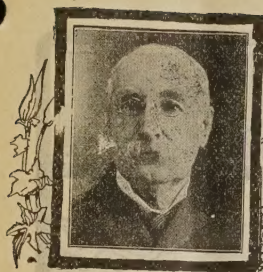
Fall is not necessarily the season to plant the corms of Crocus sativus. It is, though, the universal time of bulb planting, and obtains good results. Spring is the best all-round time to plant. The flowers will not appear until autumn, from spring-planted bulbs, and from fall planting, the blooms will not appear until fall twelve months ahead.

The saffron growers who derive great profit from this flower say that 100,000 blooms are required to make a pound of saffron powder. Therefore they plant from five hundred up, in numbers, setting the corms three inches apart, and making the rows six inches apart. Sunshine is favorable to the growth, so the plantation is located in the most open, sunny position, entirely unobstructed by shade. Good drainage is essential. Stagnant moisture or cold, clammy soil, poorly drained, causes decay of the bulbs. These bulbs are not larger than a medium-sized hickory nut, so that not much ground is called into requisition to plant from five hundred to one thousand of them. Each bulb will bear two flowers, as a rule, given rich soil and suitable environments.

The stigmas are cut out when the flowers are full blown, and dried in the sun or in kilns. They are clipped out with sharp scissors, into shallow dishes on which they are dried. According to market quotations, the Crocus sativus is a valuable plant: "Six to ten dollars per ounce," the trade journals state, is the price of saffron. This saffron that is made from the Crocus sativus is the "true saffron" of commerce. "False saffron" is made from the blooms of Safflower, or Carthamus tinctorius. False saffron is a cheap substitute for the genuine article. The yield of true saffron is estimated at five pounds to the acre. Crocus vernus, that every one is familiar with, is one of the "brightest and earliest of spring flowers and differs from the Crocus sativus in that it will not bloom except in the early part of the year; whereas the saffron Crocus, no matter when the corms are planted will not bloom until fall. This peculiarity has been much commented upon by botanists, who say that nature, by the carbon derived from the air through the long summer, ripens the properties of the bulb and increases the yield of saffron in the fall. The best bulbs are said to be from Spain. Certain dealers import them annually for the saffron fields of Texas, Mexico, Louisiana, Florida, but more for New Jersey than for any other state. The best are perfectly hardy, North and South.

Mrs. G. T. Drennan.





FLOWER GOSSIP

By Eben E. Rexford.

If you have not tried *Coreopsis lanceolata*, be sure to get a plant of it next spring. It is one of the best hardy plants. Its flowers are a nice yellow, borne on long stems which make them valuable for cutting. It's an all-the-season bloomer.

Rosa rugosa is a good thing. It has beautiful foliage which takes on a brilliant show of color in the fall, and the seed-vessels are quite as bright as the flowers are; they make a pleasing bit of color in a winter landscape.

Turn your pot-plants frequently if you want them to take on a good shape. The sun draws them toward the window and in a short time, if left alone, they become one-sided. Do not allow this to take place.

A correspondent takes me to task for advising lime water as useful for driving worms out of the soil. She writes: "I prepared the lime water just as you told me to. I put three or four spoonfuls on each pot. It didn't do the least bit of good. There are as many worms now as there were before I tried it." I don't wonder at it. Why don't persons use a little—well, judgment? Did she expect three or four spoonfuls to saturate all the soil in the pot? To make lime water effective, enough must be used to wet the soil. Unless you do this you might as well do nothing.

I am greatly pleased that so many persons are getting the greenhouse fever. I have written a great deal about the pleasure a home greenhouse can give, and those whom I induced to build one invariably indorse all I have said on this subject after they have had one a short time. They appreciate as never before the advantage of having a place expressly for plants. They find that they can not only grow all plants better in it, but that they can grow many plants that it would not be worth while to try in the sittingroom, and that work in the greenhouse is a recreation of the most delightful kind.

I don't know of a more beautiful winter flower than the *Azalea*. Such purity of whiteness, such delicate tints of rosy rose and crimson! And the flowers last so long! And there are so many of them! On one plant not two feet high and not more than a foot and a half across, I have counted over two hundred blossoms open at one time. It was a miracle!—a snowstorm of beauty! I put it in the window where passersby could enjoy it with me, and many paused to look at it and wonder over it, and admire it. Some of them seemed to envy me its possession a little.

What a pleasure it affords me to give a few flowers to an invalid in winter. How the weary eyes brighten and the pale face glows with pleasure, and the heart gets suddenly warmer because of the friendly impulse that prompted the gift. It's a pleasure that works both ways because it puts human hearts in closer touch with each other.

Be sure to have a bed of Tea Roses next summer. They will be the most useful plants you have to cut from. Those who care very little for ordinary flowers are always pleased with a rose.

Small plants, provided they are well rooted, soon come into flower and continue to blossom all the season, if cut occasionally and given a rich soil. For the throat, the hair, or the buttonhole, there

is nothing quite so desirable. They combine beauty of form and color with the sweetest fragrance, and the combination represents the ideal flower.

In growing Rex Begonias in the house, don't make the serious mistake of keeping the soil wet. Have it moist only, and keep the plants out of the sun. Do not shower them, but keep the air about them moist. These plants seem to like to absorb moisture from the air. One would be surprised to see how well they stand a dry soil if the air is kept moist.

Why don't we see more *Lantanas* in the window garden? I consider it one of our most desirable plants for winter, especially the pure white variety and the soft sulphur yellows. They grow with as little care as the geranium demands, and are constantly in bloom. They require frequent cutting back to insure a bushy growth.

One of the most cheerful window plants you can have is *Oxalis rosea*, with its wealth of bright pink flowers and its clover-like foliage. It likes strong sunshine. A pot of it will make a room bright all winter.

Another good basket plant is *Othonna crassifolia*, with its bright yellow flowers. Try it and you will be delighted with it.

Don't let your bulbs potted for winter blooming freeze and thaw if you can avoid it. The alternating changes are pretty sure to injure them, because the plants are not thoroughly established. If they freeze a little, they will not be damaged if the frost doesn't go deep enough to reach the roots. But don't be frightened and try to extract the frost all at once, for by doing that you are sure to harm them. Let them remain frozen. That is what would happen to them if planted in the open ground. Of course it will be understood that these remarks apply to hardy bulbs only, like the Hyacinth, Tulip, etc., which are not injured by frost.

The good old Chinese Primrose is one of our best winter bloomers. Some of the new strains are wonderfully fine in color, and great improvements on the old sorts in size and habit. If those who complain of decay at the crown would take pains to pot the plants high in the center, with sufficient slope of the soil to enable the water to run toward the edge of the pot, there would be no trouble of this kind.

Primula obconica deserves a place in every collection, because of its delicate beauty and its great freedom of bloom throughout the entire season. Some persons fail to grow it satisfactorily, but that is because they do not understand its requirements. It has numerous fine roots, and these drink up water so rapidly that great quantities are needed to fully supply its wants.

The Roman Hyacinths are not only more beautiful than the old Hyacinths, but you get more flowers from them, because each bulb will be pretty sure to send up four to half a dozen stalks. They are very sweet, and delightful in color, and their loose, graceful habit makes them very useful for cut-flower purposes.

If you keep your rooms very warm, your plants are probably making a rapid, weak growth. Don't

have fires, if you can help it, in rooms where plants are, until really cold weather sets in. And be sure to give them a good deal of fresh air on bright sunny days.

Look out for insects. They increase with wonderful rapidity at this season. The plants are generally reduced in vitality, because of the changes which have been made in their conditions, and insects injure them much in a short time.

One of the best winter-blooming plants is *Salvia splendens*, provided you keep the aphids and red spider from injuring it.

The catalogues will be coming in soon. What delightful and perplexing things they are. You want all the charming things they tell about, but you know you can't have all of them, and it's so hard to make up your mind as to what you want most. Never undertake more than you can successfully accomplish. What you do, do well. Now is the time to plan for next season.

These long winter evenings ought to be made the pleasantest part of the year. There is no better time for study. With a warm fire and a good book one ought to be happy.

ROOF GARDENS.

So rarely are the roofs of buildings devoted to gardening, that when one of Philadelphia's hotels 200 feet high, devotes its entire roof to such a praiseworthy purpose, the fact calls forth special comment in the newspapers. In this instance there is a rustic arcade overhead covered with trailing vines, and at each column are tubs and boxes of plants. The writer recalls a most beautiful roof garden over the market in Edinburgh, Scotland, which he visited some years ago. Both grass plots and flowers beds were present on the roof, and some of the carpet bedding was the most elaborate he had ever seen. The roof garden attracted thousands of visitors, and in every way was a great success. Why, indeed, should not such gardens be more common? In our cities there is a continual lament over the lack of foliage and other garden attractiveness. Trees die as buildings and other improvements increase, a chief cause of destruction being the loss of water through excavating for cellars, street foundations, pipe laying, etc. Another cause of tree death is that such soil as remains, in time becomes saturated with gas to the injury of whatever roots are present. But there are flat roofs by the acre or hundreds of acres, in every large city, and soil and water easily available. A foot in depth of earth suffices for beds of grass, flowers and even vegetables. Cappings of wood or stone could be provided to define the beds, leaving ample walks between. Air and sunshine are present as at the earth's surface, while gas from leaking mains would be unknown. It is an entirely feasible subject. We hope to see it taken up more and more. As we stop to think of it, when a large flat-roofed building is erected, the original horizontal space is not materially lessened, it is merely elevated by as many stories as the building is high. Why is not that just the place for a city garden?

E. A. Long.

The Hermit of the Plains

By
ISAAC MOTES.

One cloudy January morning, in 1890, I mounted my horse on the ranch and started for Abilene, Texas, seventy miles away to the southeast. The intervening country was a uninhabited stretch of level plains, with not a semblance of road to guide the traveler. But the experienced plainsman needs no such guide. I had been on the ranch only six months, but I knew the country well.

I had important business to transact in town for my employer, which demanded haste. I rode hard and reached my destination about three in the afternoon. I left my tired horse at the stable, to be kept until called for. The owner of our ranch had several good horses at the stable, and I was instructed to ride one of these fresh horses back. In an hour I had transacted my business and was ready to start on my return. My fresh horse was a splendid animal, spirited and in fine traveling condition. Though it was now late in the afternoon, I had instructions to return to the ranch that night. I had a considerable amount of my employer's money with me, the proceeds of a recent cattle sale in St. Louis, it being my business in town to get this money. Part of it would be needed next morning in a cattle deal at the ranch, so I had special orders to return that night. After getting well out of town and on to level country I spurred my horse into a long gallop, and congratulated myself that in six or seven hours I would be home.

I have said the day was cloudy. All the morning, on my trip down, the breeze came fitfully from the southeast, at times blowing fine mist in my face. The weather was warm, too warm for January weather. It was just such a day as old settlers call a "weather breeder." No one unacquainted with Texas climate can realize how quick the weather can change.

Late in the afternoon the mist grew thicker. I gave little thought to this, except to remember that it would be very dark after nightfall. I suppose I had ridden fifteen miles when I noticed that the wind was changing. In ten minutes thereafter it was coming right out of the northwest into my face, as it had done in the forenoon. The temperature began to fall. The breeze was no longer fitful, but came strong and firm, with ever and anon an angry gust. With every gust I could tell it was growing colder. The experienced frontiersman would have known instantly what was coming, and would have turned and ridden back to town. But I was only nineteen. This was my first winter in Texas, so I bore on toward the ranch. My horse seemed to understand the situation, for he knuckled down stubbornly to his work, sticking close to the earth, that low steady gallop peculiar to the Texas range horse, which he can keep up for a whole day and think it fun.

The wind and cold increased. The mist soon turned to snow and drove into my face fine as dust, blinding me. I put on my slicker, buttoning it closely about me and pulled my hat over my eyes to keep out the wind and snow. As night settled down the wind increased, and the snow grew thicker. A full realization of my danger now came to me. Yet I never thought once of turning back. I was expected at the ranch

that night, and get there I must. My horse was an old, experienced one, and had been over the route hundreds of times; but now, in the midst of this storm, with little or no timber or other physical features of the plains to guide him, it was a question whether he would go right. I gave him free rein, allowing him to take his own course. I surmised that we were now halfway to the ranch, where I hoped the country would be more familiar to him. The air was so full of snow I could not look up, and the wind, icy cold, tore at my face like a thousand furies. Those who have never encountered a snow storm on the plains of West Texas, can have little idea of the utter helplessness of man and beast caught in it.

My horse pushed on nobly. Our progress was the slower from the fact that we were traveling unswervingly in the face of the gale. Had the wind been blowing obliquely to our course the case would not have been so desperate. My horse was breathing hard. I began to notice that he was not traveling exactly in the face of the wind, which now seemed to come diagonally to our right. I was afraid he was veering to the left and away from the right direction, yet I dare not rein him back, lest I should be mistaken. It might be possible the wind was shifting. But my horse veered more and more to the left, unconsciously it seemed, impelled by the persistent fury of the storm. I reined him back again and again into what I thought the true direction, but it seemed impossible for him steadily and continually to face the northwest. He wandered more and more. It was evident we were hopelessly lost, and my heart died out in despair. I was chilled to my bones with cold, and numb with fear. My horse was greatly jaded. It was with difficulty that I urged him on. And indeed it seemed useless to travel further, since we were beyond question lost. We were now passing through thickets of mesquite, hackberry and pecan which I had never seen before, and was sure they were off our true course. As we stumbled on the trees became thicker, and the ground was broken and uneven. The wind screamed and tore through the naked branches around us.

Suddenly, I felt a current of warm air in my face. My horse at the same time gave a snort of fear and stood still. Speechless with astonishment I peered out through the blinding snow, but no sign of human habitation was near. Again the warm air blew into my face. Then I looked down at the ground near by and saw a low, oblong mound of earth, snow-covered, which appeared to have been made by human hands. Looking more closely at the mound I saw about three inches of stove pipe extending through the snow. A dugout! With a cry of joy I threw myself from my horse. My numbness of body and limbs caused me to roll in the snow, but I gained my feet and began stamping around at the south end of the mound to find the door to the dugout. I soon struck it, and dropped on my knees in the snow to lift it up. Before I could do so it was suddenly raised about five inches, a glint of firelight came up from the depths below, the barrels of two Colt's revolvers thrust out, and a guttural voice said:

"Pass on, stranger!"

"My dear sir," I cried in desperation, "hear me. I am lost in this storm and am dying of cold. I am a respectable cowboy on the Half Circle--"

"Pass on, stranger. I give you five seconds. One--two--three--"

"In God's name, hear me!" I broke in. "I tell you I am dying. Whoever or whatever you are, if you have a soul in your body, let me come in and get warm. Then if you must kill me, God have mercy on you. I am dying out here."

I suppose the earnestness of my voice, as well as my words, must have dissipated the man's suspicions. There was a moment's hesitation, the muzzles of the six-shooters were withdrawn and the voice said:

"Come in, stranger, and let's have a look at you."

I scrambled in and groped my way down the stairs. The man never took his gaze from my face for so much as one second. His hands still grasped the deadly Colts, and the hammers were drawn. He motioned me to a seat by a rusty stove, in which a fire burned sleepily. He sat over against the wall of the dugout, his deep-set eyes fixed on me as though they penetrated to the marrow of my bones.

"Now, stranger," he said, slowly, in that guttural tone, as though unused to holding converse with fellow beings, "tell me why you are here, and mind you tell a straight story. I can read your heart better than you know."

Looking him unflinchingly in the eye I told the story of my trip to town and of being caught in the storm, and my rashness in not turning back, explaining that this was my first winter on the plains. I told how I had discovered the dugout at the moment that all hope seemed to vanish. I added that the owner of our ranch was a man of means and influence in the country, and that my host would lose nothing by taking care of one of his men. As I proceeded, the sternness on his face vanished, and it assumed a softer look. The more I observed him the more firmly convinced was I that he was not a bad character, notwithstanding his hostile reception of me. His age and general appearance bore out this supposition. He appeared to be about sixty-five years old. His grizzled beard reached down midway his breast. His face was "pinched and weakened, but not vicious. His hair was thin and white, reaching down over his shoulders. He wore pantaloons and waistcoat, which in former times might have been part of a military uniform. His hunting shirt of tanned deerskin was open at the collar and halfway down his breast. I surmised that the man's anxiety for me to pass on arose not from the fact that he was an outlaw, but that he did not want his habitation discovered. The dugout had evidently been built many years. Around the wall hung skins of deer, antelope, buffalo, and other animals. The stove in the middle of the room was old, rusty and falling to pieces. The pipe reaching up through the roof was still more dilapidated. In one corner of the dugout was a bed of clean, new straw, on which lay several buffalo robes.

(Continued page 21)



Four Things.

"Four things a man must learn to do
If he would make his record true:
To think without confusion clearly;
To love his fellow-men sincerely;
To act from honest motives purely;
To trust in God and Heaven securely."

Henry Van Dyke.

Do we ever grow too old to make good resolutions for the coming year?

Is there not always something which we hope to better in ourselves or our surroundings with each recurring New Year Day?

It is one of the finest qualities in poor human nature, this desire to struggle up higher, to do or be better, and one to which we should give fullest scope. To strive, to fail, to rise and strive again makes each failure less appalling, and each recovery more sure.

Our attention was recently called to what might be accurately named as the tea habit, its prevalence and its injurious effects. It seems a small thing, a cup of tea, and its merits have long been celebrated as the cup that cheers but does not inebriate. We have all read of the famous Dr. Johnson and his numberless "dishes of tea" served from Mrs. Thrale's three-quart teapot. One is tempted to wonder if some of his savage remarks were not due to an over-indulgence in this beverage, and if they were not accompanied by an attack of "tea-trembles." The brown crockery teapot perpetually simmering on the back of the stove, we firmly believe to be the starting place of many cases of "nervous spells," and we often wish that the days would come again when tea should be sold by the ounce, and at the rate of sixty shillings the pound, as it was in 1666. We imagine that tea was one of the luxuries which the Pilgrim mothers denied themselves. In China, the home of the tea-plant and the beautiful and fragrant tea-gardens, the method of preparing this drink is very different from ours. A teapot is first heated by pouring boiling water into it, and then a teaspoonful of tea is allowed for each cup, and none "for the pot," which is our usual allowance. Boiling water is poured over the dried leaves, and as quickly poured off. This is to remove all dust and impurities. Then for a second time boiling water is poured on the leaves, allowed to stand for two or three moments, and then poured into the cups. The injurious tannic acid is not freed from the leaves by this rapid treatment, and the pleasure of the amber liquid is in no way deleterious. But to boil it, as we do, to let it simmer for hours, till every principle is extracted from the leaves, and boiled down till it is as bitter and strong as lye when it is poured into our unresisting stomachs,—no wonder we suffer from nerves!

If you must drink tea, drink it with your meals, or, at least, take something with it if it be only a

cracker. Use the black varieties, which at least come to us comparatively pure, instead of being doctored with prussian blue and gypsum, as is the green. If only the pernicious teapot could be crowded out by the nutritious and health-giving soup-kettle!

If instead of drinking a "stimulant" one should take a cup of blood and bone-making soup, we firmly believe that much of the friction generated in the working of domestic machinery would be done away with.

There is no one article of food upon which so many delightful changes can be wrung as upon soup-stock, and if your stock gives out there are dried yellow peas, dried green peas, and both black beans and white beans to fall back upon.

We are not speaking now of the clear soups which may be used to tickle the palate as the first course at a dinner-party, but those thicker and more homely affairs which are so much better in every way. It is the far better way to save the bones and bits of meat for several days, then make your soup, strain it free from the rags of meat and bare bones, and use day by day such portion as you need. Your soups will have more individuality and better flavor, than if the kettle is kept constantly simmering and each day something is added to it.

Soups should be free from fat and a fine color. The fat is easily removed when the stock is cold in the form of a cake of grease, and this is one of the advantages of making your stock up quickly and using it. It does away with the necessity of skimming.

There is nothing in the world so unappetizing as a grayish colored soup, and there is no excuse for placing one on a table, as the market is full of extracts "which can be used to make it a handsome brown. A few drops of "Kitchen Bouquet," one of the best of these compounds, will color a soup or gravy in an appetizing manner and improve the flavor too. You cannot expect to have a variety in your soups unless you provide a variety of flavorings. Celery roots, leaves, and seeds are all valuable adjuncts. Macaroni in all its various forms, rice, potato, tomato, any kind of catsup, bay leaves, and a pinch of thyme will make many changes. Try sometimes a tablespoonful of some of the preparations of wheat in your stock, not letting it cook too long. If your soup seems to lack point, scrape a dash of nutmeg over it, and add a clove or two. Nothing seems to come amiss in soup except sweet potatoes, and we expect before long to utilize even these. When it is necessary to buy bones, it is advisable to get a knuckle-bone of veal with a little meat if possible. This will give a jelly-like consistency to your stock which makes the very best soups.

In case of sickness, mutton-neck and veal, an equal portion of each, make a delicate and nutritious soup which even an irritable stomach can retain, and which is slightly laxative in its action.

Too many cooks spoil their bean and pea soups by adding stock, ham-bones, bacon, or an onion.

A bean or pea soup, well-made, smooth and thick, admirably seasoned, and served with sippets of toast needs no adventitious aids. The beans or peas should be soaked over night, and then slowly boiled for six or seven hours next day, strained through a sieve so that all lumpiness is removed, and served hot, with the toast. A little piece of fat salt pork boiled with the beans is admissible, for it does not detract from their flavor, and a soup of such a character is hearty enough to supply nutriment without the addition of a course of meat.

Black beans are not as often used as they should be. They make a delightful soup, served in quite different style from the white beans. Slices of lemon, or hard-boiled eggs grated, are pleasant additions to the soup. The New England way of preparing it is as follows: Boil slowly for about twelve hours one quart of beans in four quarts of water. Rub through a colander till entirely smooth. Add to each plateful two slices of lemon and a few drops of the juice, and for extra occasions a wine-glass of cooking-sherry to a tureen.

We cannot say too much about these soups—such a desirable adjunct to every table. There is also another large class which we have not mentioned at all—vegetable soups, made without stock, and with the addition of butter or cream.

In adding vegetables to meat soups, we might say right here, it is a mistake to put them in the pot and let them boil with the meat. They should be added just before the soup is taken up. If they are "left overs" they are already cooked; if prepared specially for the soup, they should be boiled separately, cut into delicate slices or dice, and then added.

Sometimes, instead of boiling the vegetables, they may be fried in a little butter, and this will color the soup without the use of extracts. The best proportion for making stock is a quart of water to a pound of meat or bones. To return to vegetable soups. One advantage they have is that many varieties can be made "on the fly." Even the housekeeper who is most expert at planning sometimes finds things have not come out as she expected and is called on hurriedly for a soup. Let her try an onion soup made as follows: Slice two or three fair-sized onions, and fry them in a little butter or drippings till they are soft and brownish. Add three tablespoonfuls of flour and stir into the onions till it is somewhat cooked, and slowly with constant stirring add a quart of boiling water. Three potatoes mashed and seasoned are then added to a quart of scalded milk, and this added to the onion mixture. This soup should be well seasoned, served very hot, and may be improved by a little chopped parsley, or the always agreeable fried toast. The addition of a little cream to any of these soups is a great improver, and so also are lightly beaten yolks of eggs stirred in just before removing from the fire. If allowed to boil, the eggs will curdle. In adding butter to soups, it is best to add it in small bits; it seems to blend better than when added in a lump.

THE MOTHERS' MEETING

By Victoria Wellman

"God could not be everywhere—so He made Mothers."

"HEARTS AND HANDS."

What will you do with 1902? Be kinder? Love more?

Let us "resolve," fearless of scorn or memories of past failures, to cure some faults in ourselves; for the mother's life is reflected so much in her children's lives. Whether she wishes it or not, a mother, above every one, sets an example, exerts an influence.

Here is a golden motto, it was my marriage-day verse: "For God and each other." There was another, too, but this includes all and more than the longer one.

The beginning of a New Year has always seemed to me mysteriously solemn and sweet. Only very despairing moods can resist the idea of one more opportunity. The season brings its own thoughts, suited to each individual, and it is my aim not to suggest the probable train of thought in each reader's mind, but to add some bit of inspiration, something which has helped me and may help another.

Do you feel "commonplace," old-timey, out of tune? Does your best seem very, very much too little for some great need which you grow heart-sick in seeing?—

"And God, who seeth each commonplace soul, Out of commonplace lives makes a beautiful whole."

I read once a beautiful tract; it told of the Master walking among his white lilies and of a broken earthen vessel lying near His path. The lilies drooped, needing water, and lo! the humble vessel was used by Him to water His lilies. It had felt so useless, so unlikely of even a place in the garden.

I have seen quiet, homely, self-sacrificing, unappreciated women who believed their lives desperately commonplace, and some day they will find they were heroic.—

"They talk about a woman's sphere As though it had a limit! There's not a place in earth or heaven, There's not a task to mankind given; There's not a blessing or a woe, There's not a whisper, 'Yes or no,' There's not a life, or death, or birth, That has a feather's weight of worth Without a woman in it."

What mother among us has not dreaded the morning's light on some days of expected and known trials, not less hard because endured unseen; or, with set lips tried to appear bravely when trials meant pain of body, heart and soul—"for the children's sake." To how many have times come of wild rebellion against the mere idea of a long life with an unaltered, unlesened burden? "Brave men!" we all exclaim as we read of our soldiers' gallant deeds, of lives risked, of lives lost, while cannon boomed, shells shrieked, drums beat. Do we forget those battles waged to the tune

of endless dishwashing, to the rub-a-dub of wash days and the swish of the scrub brush? Many a woman has decided over the dish pan to smile, forgive and resist temptation—and angels rejoiced.—

"The bravest battle that ever was fought, Shall I tell you where and when? On the maps of the world you'll find it not; 'Twas fought by the mothers of men."

"Nay, not with cannon or battle shot, With sword or nobler pen; Nay, not with the eloquent word of thought From mouths of wonderful men."

"But deep in a walled-up woman's heart— Of woman who would not yield, But bravely, silently bore her part—" Lo, there is the battle field!"

A philosopher has said: "Do not talk of your discouragements; not a few of our greatest men and women owe their greatness to their discouragements."

A comforting idea to me is that life comes one day at a time.

To the woman who is sorely tried, who thinks of some self release as mere justice, but who has little children of whom were she to calmly think she could not dare to dream or plan for such release even in secret, I give this little line—

"'Tis well for strength to know that some one needs us to be strong."

Let the woman who feels mismated or misplaced and in spiritual bondage be like the sky lark which sings its sweetest songs from its narrow cage.

"Look at your mercies with both eyes; at your trials and troubles with only one."

THE TIRED MOTHER.

How my heart aches for tired mothers! It is so easy to do wrong when one is "tired to death." Whether it be illness, or need of doing two women's work, or a delicate woman forced to do rough, muscular labor, or patient night watches over the sick—no matter the cause; the woman who lives the essence of true motherhood has to fill so many aspects she has need to be not "too tired to think." All honor to tired mothers who patiently mile and often repress a cross word when those around them, heedlessly selfish, add to their cares! On one woman's tombstone was engraved: "She was always so pleasant." No doubt she was often tired. Said a young bride to me, "I hope I may do as well as mother has; I have never seen her cross." Wonderful woman! I knew her life held some bitter sorrows.

"Nobody knows of the work it makes, To keep the house together; Nobody knows the steps it takes, Nobody knows but mother."

"Nobody listens to childish woes, Which only kisses smother; Nobody's pained by naughty blows, Nobody—only mother."

"Nobody knows of the sleepless care Bestowed on baby brother; Nobody knows of the tender prayer, Nobody—only mother."

"Nobody knows of the anxious fears, Lest darlings may not weather The storm of life in after years. Nobody knows but mother."

If all the hue and cry about capitalizing the word "woman" is part of a strong sentiment to regard motherhood as its crown, let us all join in; let us capitalize Woman, indeed, when we capitalize Mother. How many of

my readers belong to come Mother's League or take "Child Garden," and are enthused over true motherhood? How many, too, may have learned of these things but feel too crushed by unfavorable circumstances to emerge from them in time to bless the growing lives about them! It is hard to learn too late of prenatal influences; hard to wish for a kindergarten's training. If many of my readers desire it doubtless Vick's

(Continued on page 21)

DO YOU GET UP WITH A LAME BACK?

Have You Rheumatism? Do You Have Bladder or Uric Acid Trouble?

Pain or dull ache in the back is unmistakable evidence of kidney trouble. It is Nature's timely warning to show you that the track of health is not clear.

If these danger signals are unheeded, more serious results are sure to follow; Bright's disease which is the worst form of kidney trouble may steal upon you.

The mild and the extraordinary effect of the world-famous kidney and bladder remedy, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, is soon realized. It stands the highest for its wonderful cures of the most distressing cases. A trial will convince anyone—and you may have a sample bottle free, by mail.

Backache and Urinary Trouble.

Among the many famous cures of Swamp-Root investigated by Vick's Family Magazine the one we publish this month for the benefit of our readers, speaks in the highest terms of the wonderful curative properties of this great kidney remedy.

Dr. KILMER & Co., Binghamton, N. Y.
GENTLEMEN:—When I wrote you last March for a sample bottle of Swamp-Root, my wife was a great sufferer from backache, rheumatism and urinary trouble. After trying the sample bottle, she bought a large bottle here at the drug store. That did her so much good she bought more. The effect of Swamp-Root was wonderful and almost immediate. She has felt no return of the old trouble since.
Oct. 1901.

F. THOMAS,
427 Best St., Buffalo, N. Y.

Lame back is only one symptom of kidney trouble—one of many. Other symptoms showing that you need Swamp-Root are, obliged to pass water often during the day and to get up many times at night, inability to hold your urine, smarting or irritation in passing, brick-dust or sediment in the urine, catarrh of the bladder, uric acid, constant headache, dizziness, sleeplessness, nervousness, irregular heart-beating, rheumatism, bloating, irritability, wornout feeling, lack of ambition, loss of flesh, sallow complexion.

If your water when allowed to remain undisturbed in a glass or bottle for twenty-four hours, forms a sediment or settling, or has a cloudy appearance, it is evidence that your kidneys and bladder need immediate attention.

In taking Swamp-Root you afford natural help to Nature, for Swamp-Root is the most perfect healer and gentle aid to the kidneys that is known to medical science. Swamp-Root is the great discovery of Dr. Kilmer, the eminent kidney and bladder specialist. Hospitals use it with wonderful success in both slight and severe cases. Doctors recommend it to their patients and use it in their own families, because they recognize in Swamp-Root the greatest and most successful remedy.

To Prove What SWAMP-ROOT, the Great Kidney, Liver and Bladder Remedy, Will do for YOU, Every Reader of Vick's Family Magazine May Have a Sample Bottle Absolutely Free by Mail.

If you have the slightest symptom of kidney or bladder trouble, or if there is a trace of it in your family history, send at once to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., who will gladly send you free by mail, immediately, without cost to you, a sample bottle of Swamp-Root and a book of wonderful Swamp-Root testimonials. Be sure to say that you read this generous offer in Vick's Family Magazine.

If you are already convinced that Swamp-Root is what you need, you can purchase the regular fifty-cent and one-dollar size bottles at the drug stores. Don't make any mistake, but remember the name, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, and the address, Binghamton, N. Y.





OUR BRIGHT EYED CIRCLE. Goodbye 1901. Welcome 1902.

I wish you all a Happy New Year! If you read this page carefully, I am sure you will see good news in it for you.

Surely all of you have noticed the great changes made in Vick's Family Magazine. Let me tell you a secret—it is only a taste of our plans for the future. We mean to make everyone glad they subscribed to Vick's, and to entertain, help and teach our young readers.

By the way, I want to get nicely acquainted with you, boys and girls, the school boys as well as the little pets who climb mamma's knees so often with the constant cry, "Tell stories; read stories;" and who "love" books to pieces as a rule. Let me get some nice chatty letters from you. We really must be introduced! Allow me, my dear Master Tom, Dick or Harry and Miss Dorothy, Gertrude or Nellie, to introduce myself as your "Aunt Stella," from now and on, and your well wisher and sympathizer. (You see I never can forget what a mischief, romp and book lover I was.) I am so inquisitive about you; I just long to hear from some of the country children, all about their everyday lives. I would live in the country always if life could be like my childhood's air-castles, but as it is, just write me nice letters about sleigh rides and surprise parties and ah! the country school. You will be surprised to find how delighted I shall be, since it will help me imagine I am really with you. We so little guess how often someone envies us the little things we have and perhaps dislike. Isn't it odd?

I was once a little country school girl, so don't I remember the snow-drifts, the cold noses and toes? And the big stove in the center of the room—and being naughty on cold days so as to come down into those front seats nearer the fire! I shall surely feel dreadfully if no one writes me about their good times this winter. By the way suppose you begin now—you might forget! Address to Stella Alderson, care of Vick's Family Magazine, Rochester, N. Y., and remember to call me "Aunt"—and I'll try to be a really nice auntie.

Aunts and grandmothers often spoil boys and girls with cakes, candy and excuses when they are naughty. I am offering something much nicer than candy for 1902 to you, my Bright Eyes. Just listen!

Do you like good stories, fairy tales, adventures, etc.? You can earn a whole library by securing subscriptions for Vick's Family Magazine. The publishers are making a wonderful offer just now to send the magazine a whole year for only 25 cents, and they have promised me that they will send postpaid any one book in the list entitled "Stan-

dard Series," advertised on the inside of the back cover, to any boy or girl for each two subscriptions secured by them at the special 25 cent rate. Here is a chance for you to earn a nice library. Get as many subscriptions as you can and select a book for every two subscriptions you get. Take this copy of the magazine and go to your friends and neighbors; show them what a nice magazine it is for only 25 cents a year. They will subscribe. Try to get ten subscriptions if possible to get five of the books. You will enjoy reading them these long winter eyenings. Perhaps you have some cousins or friends to whom you would like to have us send a copy of the magazine. Send their names and addresses to us and tell or write them about this book offer. They will be delighted to earn some books too. And all of you should send in at least two new subscriptions now, while our wonderful twenty-five cent offer is open, for who could refuse to subscribe at such a price for such a magazine? Never can you expect such a chance to get new subscriptions easily. Just think—only twenty-five cents! Get two subscriptions and send them along at once and sign your name and address very clearly (I can only read English and German, so if you write Greek or Egyptian I really shall give up my task) and give the name and number of the book you desire as your premium.

The greatest step is—beginning. Do not let January pass without sending in two subscriptions. Now write freely to me, all of you: Here is a good girl who sets an example.

Dear Aunt Stella: We live just outside Columbus, Ohio, and we raise chickens. I help with the incubators. Sometimes we have 500 chicks all at one time. I love chickies, don't you? We all read Vick's Family Magazine, and papa likes the chicken page and mamma the flowers and I am sure I like the Bright Eyed Circle very much already. I want to write some of the "cousins" for I am the only child and my nearest playmate lives a mile away. I am eleven years old. Your little niece,
Nellie Drew,
Columbus, Ohio.

There, that is just splendid! Do I love those little yellow puffs of new hatched chickens? I wonder if any one ever loved them more! I used to carry them around in my apron pockets and once I sat down on two sweet little chicks who were in my dress pocket and—oh, dear, they died. I ran, crying bitterly, into the house, "O, I'm a murderer, a murderer. Will they hang me?" And did I ever tell you about my old red hen that I dressed in red flannel bloomers, stockings, cap and coat—and she was not proud at all! And she failed as a dress reformer. All the other fowls ran away squealing when she stumbling, picking, cackling and kicking by turns drew near. As she refused to eat I had to let her have her own way and take off her gay warm dress. She preferred to freeze her comb and legs rather than be oddly dressed. How like some people I know.

For our Little Bright Eyes—A Story of
A LITTLE BRIGHT-EYED FAMILY.

There were Father and Mother Eyebright, and three little ones, Fluff, Duff and Tiny.

Their home was the garret of an old warehouse and they were very comfortable and happy until one unfortunate day. Father Eyebright had gone down to replenish the family cupboard which just then was rather bare, but hurried back in wild alarm.

"What is the matter?" cried Mamma Eyebright.

"Alas!" answered the father, "we must find a new home; but where can we go? This old garret has sheltered us so long that no other place will be so homelike."

"But the breakfast," said Mamma Eyebright; "we can't move out on empty stomachs."

"The house will be torn down over our heads if we do not hurry," said the father.

"Well, do find something for the children to eat, and then we will start."

Father Eyebright went cautiously along the beams and through the walls until he reached the lowest story. He found a few bits of bread and ran nimbly up again. The little ones nibbled these while the father went for more. He felt a shaking and rumbling in the walls and the next moment was buried under a pile of rubbish—dead.

Mamma Eyebright and the young ones waited and watched for him in vain. At last Duff went to look for him. Soon a hammering was heard beneath them and Mamma Eyebright called the others and ran hastily through the walls. Just as they reached a place of safety Fluff put her head out of a nice little hole and a famous old mouser snapped her up in a minute.

Mamma Eyebright felt sad and discouraged. With Tiny by her side, they worked their way into a nearby cellar. And—oh, joy! there was a great, lovely piece of cheese that seemed placed right there purposely for them. They ate a good meal and, feeling unusually tired, Mamma Eyebright and her last child, Tiny, cuddled down for a nap.

The next morning the master of the house found them still asleep. "I hope these are the last of those troublesome rats," he said, and he gave them a little kick, "I must take them out and bury them under the grape vine."

BOYS! See Here.

Would you like to receive the best boys paper in the world for a whole year? Get only four subscriptions to Vick's Family Magazine at our special 60 day rate of 25 cents and send us the names and money and we will have the *American Boy* sent to you a whole year. It is a splendid magazine for boys and the regular price is \$1.00 a year. Write all names and addresses plainly and give your name as the agent, also state that you want the *American Boy* as your premium.

We desire copies of issues of Vick's Magazine of December 1897, January 1898 and January 1899. If any of our readers have these copies with which they are willing to part we would be pleased to have them drop us a card.

Vick Publishing Company.



FRUIT NOTES

BY PROF. H. E. VAN DEMAN.

Brevities.

Peach growing in Georgia is still increasing, as it is said that 3,000,000 trees are to be set before planting stops next spring. Elberta is the leading variety. Virginia has some of the best apple land in America and much of it is not yet more than merely experimented with. The Blue Ridge country is where the best quality is grown. Such as Winesap and York Imperial do not grow elsewhere.

York Imperial is getting to be better known and more prized in the markets. This year it brings fifty cents more per barrel in New York City than Ben Davis of the same size. It has some faults, one of which is its irregular shape and another a tendency to scald in storage. However, it is one of our best winter apples. It is being tested in New York and farther north.

The Chautauqua Grape Belt.

Along the southern shore of Lake Erie, from the vicinity of Dunkirk, New York, to the western line of the state, a distance of about fifty miles, but not to exceed an average width of more than three miles, there is a famous region for growing grapes. The soil and climate there seem to be just right for the growth of this fruit. The influence of the waters of the lake has much to do with the advantageous conditions, by holding back the growth in springtime that otherwise might come out too early and be frosted, as it often is, a little farther back. The soil is gravelly loam and while not exceedingly rich it is not poor. It lies beautifully, being neither steep nor dead level, except in rare cases.

Grapes are planted on almost every farm and some have nothing much besides. From one point on a hill overlooking the border of the lake, I saw fully 5,000 acres of vineyards. It was then in October, the height of the cutting and packing season. Concord is the leading variety. Niagara comes next in quantity. Worden, Brighton, Delaware, Vergennes, Lindley, Agawam, and a few others are grown to a limited extent. Campbell will be planted by many, as fast as vines can be obtained. The grapes are mostly sent to market in the fresh state from the Chautauqua region, and are generally handled through co-operative organizations of the growers. This is one of the most important matters connected with the whole enterprise.

In Memory of Samuel Miller, a Pioneer of Horticulture.

Another of the old pioneers of American horticulture passed away recently, when Samuel Miller of Missouri laid down his pen, his hoe and his life. He was one of nature's gentlemen, as well as an able and devoted horticultural worker and writer. He was born near Lebanon, Pennsylvania, October 4, 1820, and died at his home near Bluffton, Missouri, October 24, 1901, his life covering a period of over 81 years. It has been a life of usefulness and unselfishness. Mr. Miller was a born horticulturist, for he always loved

plants and trees and nothing pleased him so well as to be working among them, so long as he was able to be about the gardens and orchards. He loved flowers as well as fruits and it was an especial delight to me, as well as to him, that, when at the Pan-American Exposition I had the privilege of escorting him through the extensive beds of old-fashioned flowers and herbs that were planted there by H. A. Dreer of Philadelphia. He would stop and look at one and another, expressing his delight that he should once more see the things that were common to him at his childhood home in Pennsylvania. I then thought that this might be his last opportunity to gaze upon these rare old flowers and smell the sweet-scented herbs, and so it has proved to be. Peace, sweet peace! to his ashes and to his memory. Doubtless his triumphant soul is dwelling where the fruits and flowers of paradise are on every side.

Mr. Miller originated two fruits that in their day made considerable stir; these were the Martha grape and Captain Jack strawberry. The former was a great novelty, because it was a seedling of Concord and a white grape. For many years it was the best of the hardy white grapes, but, now that we have others which are better, it is not often even mentioned. The Captain Jack strawberry was a very popular variety for a long time, but now we rarely hear of it. As a writer, Mr. Miller was a success. What he said was always candid and kindly. He wrote very largely for the "Rural World" of St. Louis, in later years. As a member of the horticultural societies, he always spoke and conferred in the most generous and friendly way. Everybody who knew him loved him.

In 1867 he moved to Bluffton, Mo., and his home was there as long as he lived. He was very loyal to his adopted state and never failed to say a good word for it, although he loved the home where he spent his early life. His last work was at the Pan-American Exposition, where he was called to assist in the fruit exhibit of Missouri. There he spent many pleasant weeks entertaining visitors and studying the fruits from the different states and countries. As we had been intimate friends for nearly thirty years, it is pleasure to me to have been able to help make his last days happy, and when disease (a dropsical affection) forced him to go home we all bid him a tearful farewell, for we knew that it would be the last. The memory of a good life is a lovely and valuable inheritance to leave behind.

West Virginia Orchards.

The extent of the apple growing interest in West Virginia is not generally known. In Hancock county there are orchards of 4,000, 9,000, and even 18,000 trees and scores of other small and large orchards. Five years ago Hancock county shipped 300,000 bushels of fine apples and the orchard area has been growing right along. Some of our subscribers in that county have gathered over 10,000 barrels in a single season. The West Virginia growers are experts in apples; they are acquainted with their trees,—as Prof. Bailey would say—know just the treatment to give them. The Hancock county section is not the only developed orchard region of the state. The growers of Berkley and Jefferson counties pride themselves on having some of the most profitable orchards in the East. The orchards of Berkley county, which is part of the famous Albemarle Pippin region of Virginia, number 3,000 acres. Although these are in the main young orchards, the crop of 1899 brought in a revenue of \$200,000. The Willow Twig is one of the leading varieties in West Virginia. Brown's Sons are descendants of the pioneer apple grower of that section, who planted an orchard more than one hundred years ago.

Practical Fruit Grower.

Figs in Asia Minor.

The fig growing district of Asia Minor lies almost entirely along the Smyrna-Aidin Railway. The fruit ripens about the middle of August and is allowed to fall to the ground, when it is gathered and dried in the open air for from three to six days. It is then packed in sacks of about 250 pounds each, two of which constitute a load for each camel, by which means figs are carried to the nearest station to be conveyed, by train to Caravan Bridge, Smyrna. Thence the sacks are again conveyed by camels to the depots of the purchasers. An attempt was made to employ arabas, or carts, in the place of camels, but it was found that the fruit was damaged if the sacks were piled one on the other.

The arrival of the first camel load of figs in Smyrna is each season celebrated as a popular festival, as the washing, drying and packing of the fruit gives employment to thousands of people. The sale of dried figs for food takes place from the end of August till the beginning of November, after which the sales are almost entirely of hurdas, or figs for distilling. *California Fruit Grower.*

DON'T MISS THIS BARGAIN

You will never find another like it—We offer you Green's Fruit Grower, the best, handsomest and most helpful publication of its kind (recently improved) also several other good journals at a price far below what you can obtain them for elsewhere. Here is the list—Vick's Family Magazine one year; Green's Fruit Grower one year; The American Poultry Advocate one year; Up-to-Date Farming and Gardening 3 mos; New Ideas 3 mos; A total value of \$1.55 for only 55 cents. Fill in the following; blank plainly and mail to us with 55 cents at once. Enclosed find 55 cents for one year's subscription to Vick's Family Magazine, Green's Fruit Grower, American Poultry Advocate and 3 months subscription to Up-to-Date Farming and Gardening and New Ideas as per your offer.

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It is said that a law has lately been passed in Norway, which provides that in future when a woman desires to get married, she must present to the proper authorities a certificate showing that she is skilled in cooking, sewing, knitting, and embroidery. This is all right, at least so far as skill in cooking and sewing are concerned, for every woman who thinks of marrying should be accomplished in these two things which are so indispensable in the making of a happy home; but like all laws made by men alone, this one is very one-sided. Why shouldn't a young man who thinks of marrying be obliged to prove that he is able to support a wife and maintain a comfortable home for her?

Vick's Magazine is all it claims to be; it is splendid.—H. H. K. Paoli, Ind.

I like your magazine very much; sometimes a single item in one number is worth more than the whole year's subscription.—Mrs. J. F. J., Minneapolis, Minn.

A young boy in our city has worked out a solution of the problem how to get through the long and trying weeks before Christmas. One day, at least three weeks before the longed-for time, he said to an older sister: "Margaret, I'm just sick of this waiting and waiting for Christmas. I'll tell you what I'm going to do. There's a man out at the end of the street who puts folks to sleep for seventy cents. Now I'm going to earn seventy cents somehow and get him to put me to sleep until Christmas morning."

The Magazine is greatly improved.—T. M. E., Burlington, N. J.
I like the Magazine very much, especially the parts on flowers and poultry.—Mrs. E. L. T., Jackson, Mich.

The glowing catalogues of the seedsmen usually begin to arrive in January. This gives one time to plan for the spring planting. Though it is hard to realize on these cold, blustering days that spring will soon be here, we know that such is the case and we should "take time by the forelock" and begin at once to think of what we most want for the flower and vegetable garden. Of course some of the old stand-bys we expect to order every season, but if each year we also selected some new variety, not necessarily one of the novelties just beginning

to be advertised, but something that has been long enough on the market to be tested by those on whose opinion we rely, it will add a zest to gardening and often introduce to us very deserving vegetables and flowers.

I have taken your magazine so many years that when I do not get it I feel lost, so I am glad to take advantage of your special offer.—Mrs. E. E. W., Santa Rosa, Cal.

I am an old time subscriber to *Vick's Magazine*. I am much pleased with it of late and wish to renew my subscription.—C. H. W., Brooklyn, N. Y.

A full-grown, well-developed tree is an object of beauty, and it always seems a pity when such a one has to be sacrificed. Occasionally, when passing along the street one notices with satisfaction where a sidewalk departs from a straight line in order to spare a fine tree, and mentally thanks the unknown person who brought this about. No one deprecates the unnecessary sacrifice of a tree or mourns its loss more than the writer, but there are innumerable instances where trees should be cut down, for various reasons. In the middle of summer, when we feel the grateful influence of the shade, we think that not one tree could be spared from our lawns. But when the short, dark days come, how gloomy are the rooms from which the light is shut out by the trees which are planted so thickly or so close to the house. Health and comfort both demand that sunshine be admitted to our homes. In the winter we can best judge whether certain trees obstruct the light and whether they tend to produce dampness. If such be the case, our sentimental feelings should be sacrificed and the unnecessary or deleterious trees cut down. If when setting them out a proper allowance were made for the growth of trees, no such stern necessity as cutting them down would have to be met; but it seems hard to realize that the little sapling will in a few years cover a wide space, and we put out twice as many as should be planted.

I am a subscriber to *Vick's Magazine* and wish to have it sent to four of my flower-loving friends for one year each. I enjoy reading the magazine very much.—Mrs. A. McK.—Brampton, Ont.

When planting shade trees along the highway, set them far enough apart to permit the sunshine to enter to dry out the roadway after rains. The trees, too, have a chance to develop and form more symmetrical shapes when planted a proper distance apart. We frequently admire some solitary specimen of maple or elm standing alone in a field and wish we could have such near our homes, but the chances are that had we set out similar trees on our premises we would have planted them so closely together as to destroy all chance of symmetrical development. Fifty feet apart is not too far to set shade trees for best development, for the good of the land adjoining, and for good roads.

It is quite a common practice now to set Maple, Elm, and other slow-growing trees, fifty feet apart, and plant Carolina Poplars between. The latter make a more rapid growth and thus afford shade sooner, and they can be cut out when the other trees demand more space.

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Be sure to give the name of the old as well as the new postoffice. If your former postoffice has been discontinued on account of rural free delivery, notify us and state the correct postoffice for us to send the magazine to now.

Edward Everett Hale's Opinion of *Vick's*.

In a recent issue of his most interesting and helpful publication, the *Land a Hand Record*, Dr. Edward Everett Hale says:

Vick's Family Magazine brings to the gardener and lover of flowers a wealth of knowledge. The publication would be more convenient to handle were it a little smaller. So much interest has been evinced in water gardens the past few years that Mr. Moulder's Water Lily Notes will be eagerly read. Literature on this subject is still scarce. Mr. James Vick was among the first persons to establish a floral magazine.

The Water Lily Notes by Mr. Moulder will be resumed in our February number.

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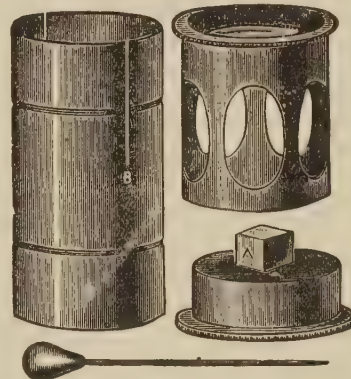
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COUNT WALDEMAR

By Stanley Littell

(This story was begun in October)

"Oh, no," she answered quietly. "He has written to me several times since we parted at Homburg, and he always spoke in his letters of paying us a flying visit in the course of the winter."

"Oh, really?" said I, "I didn't know," and then I changed the subject.

A man does not reach my time of life, nor spend the best part of half a century principally in cultivating the society of his fellow creatures, to be scandalized by the flirtations of a pretty woman. Consciousness of my own many infirmities has ever imposed upon me a large measure of toleration for those of others; and when all is said and done, flirting, taken in the abstract, is no very heinous offence. Nevertheless, Mrs. Seymour's conduct in the present instance disappointed me. I had given her credit for less vanity and more consideration for the feelings of her neighbors. Was it worth while to inflict an expensive and fruitless journey upon this innocent young German, to set a hitherto harmonious party by the ears, and to get me into trouble with Mrs. Clifford, merely for the amusement of playing off one admirer against another? I was really vexed with Mrs. Seymour, and all the more so because I had seen a good deal of her during my sojourn at Hyeres, and had discovered the existence of many excellent qualities beneath her somewhat conventional exterior.

At the same time, I could not but admire the skill with which she contrived to receive both the young men every day, and yet so to arrange matters that their visits should not clash. I myself, having so few sources of amusement at command in the place, strolled up to her villa pretty frequently, and invariably found one or other of the rivals there, but never the two of them together. There was always some pretext, directly

traceable to Mrs. Seymour's influence, for the dismissal of the absentee. Now it was Everard who had taken Miss Grey out for a ride; now it was Count Waldemar who had kindly undertaken to execute a few commissions at Toulon, and who was to be driven back from the station by Mrs. Seymour in her pony-carriage. Sometimes the German, sometimes the Englishman, was sent down to the seashore, three miles away, to pick up the many-colored shells which abound on that coast. I happen to have an elementary knowledge of conchology, and I had the curiosity to put a few questions to Mrs. Seymour on the subject, thereby convincing myself that if she knew a crustacean from a mollusk it was about as much as she did. She laughed when I taxed her with deliberate deceit, and frankly admitted that she had found it advisable to keep her friends as much as possible apart.

"They did not get on well together from the first," said she; "and I think it is always so much better not to try and make people like each other unless they are inclined that way. Count Waldemar is much too good-natured to quarrel with anybody, but he has a way of criticising you to your face, and of contradicting you flatly if you do not happen to agree with him, which people who do not know him are sometimes apt to take amiss. And then, you know, he does rather monopolize the conversation. When he is in the room nobody else gets much chance of making himself heard, and Mr. Everard, who is very well-informed and clever, and all that, is accustomed to be listened to."

"Precisely so; and that, of course, is quite enough to account for two good fellows hating one another like poison," says I, with delicate irony. "Well, you know, Englishmen and foreigners hardly ever do manage to hit it off," she answered, in the most innocent manner in the world; "but I should not say that they exactly hated one another."

They did, though, or something very like it. Although, owing to the able tactics above alluded to, they seldom or never met at Mrs. Seymour's, every day brought them together half-a-dozen times at the Hotel d'Orient; and, to use Mrs. Clifford's epigrammatical expression, they never fell in with one another without falling out. She, of course, laid all the blame of this unpleasantness upon Count Waldemar, whereas I was inclined to think that Everard had been the original aggressor; but I must confess that at the end of a week there was not a pin to choose between them. Each did his best to be objectionable to the other, and in so doing, succeeded in being a most decided nuisance to everybody else.

In my capacity of neutral, I had more opportunities than I cared about of hearing both sides of the question.

"Of all the offensive bores I ever met," Everard would exclaim, "that long-legged German friend of yours is

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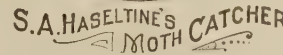
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(Concluded in February issue)

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Don't neglect the supply of grit. Judicious feeding is better than generous feeding.

Boil the small potatoes, and parings for the hens.

The more carefully you lay plans. the more freely will the hens lay eggs

The egg-eating fowl has been on short rations for the last few weeks, as there have been no eggs.

If the big storm last month found some holes in your hen house roof, you should locate them at once. No hens will do well in damp quarters.

If you ever feed corn, now is the time to do it, while the weather is cold. But always remember that there is more fat than eggs in a corn diet.

White Leghorns lay larger eggs than the Brown Leghorns, still there is a general impression that the Browns will turn out the greater number.

You can save considerable food of greater value, by supplying plenty of cut clover hay for the fowls, cut it fine, and you will be surprised how much they will get away with.

While the turkey is essentially the Thanksgiving Day bird, the goose, technically speaking, is the proper bird for the Christmas dinner, and this prestige dates away back to ancient times.

It is none too early to arrange for your breeding pens. Separate those fowls which will make the best matings, and give them special care so that you can get some early eggs, that will be fertile.

Better provide warm water twice a day, and empty out what remains in the vessel after the hens have had a drink. It will save trouble in the end, for the vessels will otherwise freeze and burst.

Your ration will never be a complete one until it includes a little raw meat, liver, or ground bone. In summer the hens can supply this want by hunting worms, bugs, etc., but now they must depend upon charity.

The shortage of the egg crop has run clear through December, and is more than usually general. Eggs in all markets have been extremely scarce, and the price has been correspondingly high. The man who had some early hatched pullets was in luck, but it was not their fault that many more did not have them. Many a man coaxed January and February eggs out of his hens, enough to set an incubator, only to find, after a three-week's tussle with the zero weather that the eggs were not fertile, owing to the continued cold weather sapping the vitality all out of the fowls. The condi-

tions must be the most perfect, when hens will lay fertile eggs during extremely cold weather.

There are many sorts of stimulants. put up and sold, as great egg inducements. If these are used at all it should be done very sparingly. Up to a certain point these stimulants are beneficial in cold weather, but beyond that they are harmful just in proportion to the recklessness with which they are used. In seasoning food for hens, it should not be made much, if any more, rank than you would make it for yourself. Of course fowls will eat a warm mash, when they are hungry, though it be too salty, or peppery to be palatable, simply because they are hungry, and because they see all the other fowls pitching into it. You will often eat things that are too highly seasoned to suit your taste, simply because they have been placed before you by some well-meaning person, and you are too hungry to be very critical. You may regret having eaten the meal, after nature has instituted the rebellion that is almost sure to follow, and so will the hen. You take an antidote and get over it, while the hen, having none to take gets sick and dies. It may not be right away, for she may grow dumpy and disconsolate, and hump up by herself for weeks, during which time you wonder what ails her. You have heard that cayenne pepper is good for sick hens, so you catch her, and administer a dose, utterly ignoring the fact that that sort of stuff was what made her sick. In due time she dies, and you attribute the demise to every cause but the right one. The other day, we remarked that a little salt was good for hens. A young man replied that it was good to kill hens, and that salt never should be fed them. In evidence he offered the statement that his mother made a cake one day, and used salt, by mistake, for sugar. She did what most other people would have done, and "threw it into the chicken dish." The hens ate it greedily, hen like, and it killed the entire flock. Upon this experience the young man based his positive assertion that salt should never be given to hens. All warm-blooded animal life requires salt, and cattle as well as human beings will

ations must be the most perfect, when hens will lay fertile eggs during extremely cold weather.

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Catarrh is a kindred ailment of consumption, long considered incurable; yet there is one remedy that will positively cure catarrh in any of its stages. For many years this remedy was used by the late Dr. Stevens, a widely noted authority on all diseases of the throat and lungs. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all sufferers from Catarrh, Asthma, Consumption, and nervous diseases, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper. **W. A. Noyes, 847 Powers Block, Rochester, N. Y.**

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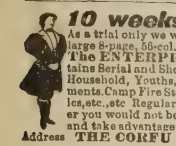


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PEERLESS MFG. CO., Greenville, Pa., Box 239.

starve for it. Fowls are the same in proportion to their size, and unless this want is supplied they will not attain to the best possible condition. The only thing to guard against is the danger of over-doing it, and giving them too much.

The question of ventilation is one that has been discussed vigorously for years, and still there are various opinions concerning it. Some think that a regular chimney on top of a henhouse is the proper thing. Others think it should be done by having several overhead swinging windows, like those that supply ventilation in a railroad car. After studying the question carefully, we are of the opinion that overhead ventilation is a delusion, and many fowls catch colds from which they never recover, through the medium of overhead drafts. If you are bound to have a ventilator let it be in the shape of a tin tube that starts nearly on the floor, and reaches above the roof. In this way the foul air that pollutes the floor of the house is drawn up and out with no danger from a cold draft on the heads of the hens, as is the case with overhead ventilation. Our experience is that it is pretty hard to get a roosting place so tight that it needs ventilating to any considerable extent. On a windy night take a lighted lamp into the place and hold it for a moment, and if it does not flicker and tell you which way the wind blows, it is an unusually air tight house, and different from the average. Keep the roosting place well cleaned out, and sprinkled with slacked lime, or sifted coal dust, and there will be little need of ventilation in cold weather. The main thing is to have it warm and dry and clean, then you need not worry about fresh air during the night, when they are on the perches. Give them their choice and they will take the warm dry bedroom, in preference to the average ventilated one.

Correspondents ask many times what to feed their hens. It is a difficult question to answer without knowing all the conditions. There is no grain that more completely fills the bill, so far as imparting strength and "backbone" to fowls than does wheat, fed whole. It forms the most perfect food known, as it forms all the constituents of all the other grains. Other grains may have their special features of merit, but wheat combines them all, and therefore is good for bone, and for muscle, and eggs and fat. Regarding the mash, there is nothing better than bran and ground oats with a little corn meal. If this is mixed in hot water and fed hot it will prove an excellent ration. Season with salt and red pepper about as you would like it seasoned for your own eating, and it will be relished all the more by the hens. If you have a nice lot of pullets that you want to kill just feed them a lot of whole oats, but if you want them to live then don't do it. On the other hand, if you have a lot of old hens that are too fat to lay, and you

want some anti-fat, put them on a short ration of whole oats. The tender crops of the youngsters will be injured by the long, sharp points of the oats, while to the old hens will be administered just the pricking they need to put egg-laying life into them.

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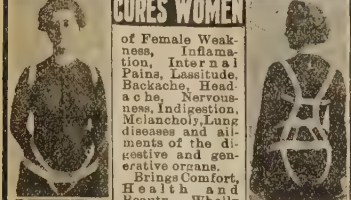
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Cut this out and send, good for 20 per cent. **DRESS—PLAINTING KILLS** The cheapest, oldest, and best place. Conly's, 28 Sherman St., 88 State St., Chicago. Conly sells the best and cheapest Plating, Pinking, and other machines. Write for Catalogue.

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to boys and girls. Equal in appearance to a fifty dollar ring. Given absolutely free, for selling 20 or our novelties at 10 cents each, in an hour among your neighbors. Send us your name and address with the written consent of your parents, and we will send you the novelties at once by mail postpaid. When you send us the money (\$2.00) and we will send you this beautiful ring by return mail. This ring is rolled gold and warranted and has a genuine Alaska diamond setting. We also give Printing Presses and dolls. Send no money but write us now. **AMERICAN NOV. MFG. CO.**, 609 W. Jefferson St., Alexandria, Ind.

heard her moving softly about. What was she doing? Preparing to steal something probably. These children from the tenement districts were all thieves.

But no! When he ventured to look again, she was at the study table—his table—writing. She had his sacred pen, which no other mortal had ever dared to touch, and she was writing slowly and laboriously. Could presumption go farther than that? What would these people be doing next?

It took her a long time to write the letter, but at last it was finished, and she laid the pen down with a weary sigh. Then she unrolled a little bundle that had been lying beside her and shook out—could the watcher believe his eyes?—a stocking, a poor, forlorn, ragged little stocking! Now what could she do with that?

She stood on tiptoe and peered around the corners of the mantel for a place to hang it. Finally something struck her fancy as suitable, and she began pushing a heavy chair toward the mantel. When it was near enough, she climbed upon it and hung the stocking upon the "brave caduceus" of the bronze Mercury that he had bought last year in Rome and for which he had paid such a price!

Presently she had jumped down and was surveying the stocking with greatest pride. Then the note was carefully folded, and she climbed upon the chair again and pinned the folded paper to the toe so conspicuously that the winged Mercury seemed to stand there for no other purpose than to hold up a ragged stocking for all the world to see.

And then—why, then she was lying down upon the rug with her thin cheek on her thin little hand, and the listener heard a tired sigh.

After a long while the old gentleman behind the screen ventured to move slightly. After a little longer pause he moved again and so gradually came out of his hiding-place.

Was that old Mr. Roberts tiptoeing across the room to keep from startling the poor little wail sleeping on his hearthrug? Was that the sordid old man whom even his friends had come to call a mere money machine, that man whose hands trembled as he unpinned the little note and spread it out before him?

Dear Santa Clause,—When you come tonight please look at me. I'll be down on the rug. You've never seen me before. You needn't give me anything but please fill the stocking with things for mother she's sick. I tied up the toes so they won't drop out. The doctor says wine and things and houserent.

MARJORIE HOLMES.

For a long time the old man sat in the chair before the fire. Something within him was breaking the cold and selfish crust that years had helped to form. He sat there looking at the sleeping child to the forlorn little stocking and from the stocking to the child. It was the first time a stocking

(Concluded on page 20)

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FREE. A New Discovery for Women. FREE. One 35c box Vitalee Home Treatment, a positive cure for all Female Diseases and displacements will be sent with valuable advice and illustrations **FREE.** **MRS. B. V. TURNBULL,** Chelsea, Mich.

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I pay from \$1 to \$100 for certain coins dated 1838-46-51-52-53-56-58-61-63-64-65-66-73-75-76-77-79-80-93-94 and 95. For certain older rare dates I pay \$10 to \$1000. Some coins with Mint Marks bring 500 per cent. over face value. 65 rare foreign coins and medals sold recently for \$35,286, and some postage stamps bring \$4,000 per stamp. If you are interested in large legitimate profits send two stamps for an illustrated circular on coins and stamps.

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Pure Extracts in solid form. Far excel liquids for Economy, Strength and Convenience. One in Clothing or Handkerchief box produces delightful refreshing fragrance for weeks. Sealed Capsules. All Odors 25 cents. Money promptly returned if unsatisfactory. Free Circular. Agents wanted. Wm. J. Deakne, Dept. C, Camden, N. J.

Beautiful Aluminum Card Case

your name engraved on it, 25 cents. 100 Visiting Cards best stock and printing 30 cents. Both 50 cents. CHAS. F. LEWIS, Southington, Conn.

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Makes its own gas; gives a 16 candle power white light; absolutely safe; better and cheaper than oil; a great bonanza for agents. To introduce we will send one sample for 35c. with full instructions. Catalog for 2 stamps. Star Nov. Co., 1107 Palmer St., Phila.

Sen-sa-Belle ...Skirt and Waist...

Just Out. Ladies for 10c. we will send one set to introduce. "Best by Test." Agents wanted. Albany Specialty Co., Palatine Bridge, N. Y.

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for locating gold and silver lost treasures. The only rods guaranteed to work, or money refunded. Catalogue 25 stamps. Address T. S. Agency, Box 275, M. Dallas, Texas.

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We send free and separate and full illustrated Imps Enamelled Bottle. Disappearing Glass. Vanishing Ink. Dollar trick. 5 packs of trick cards. Great Book. "ART OF MAGIC." Electric Push Button. "How to Win." and our large illustrated 300 page catalogue of LATEST TRICKS. Novelties, Plays, Books, etc. ALL FOR 25c. post paid. VERNER & CO., 282 Michigan Ave., CHICAGO, Ill.

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For 25 cts. will send Aluminum card tray with engraving of our martyred President, Wm. McKinley. A. E. SHUTE & CO., Dept. B, W. Derry, N. H.

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Nothing like it. Polishes everything that can be polished: Silverware, jewelry, plated ware, glass and mirrors. Sample bar, 10c. Agents wanted. R. Graham, 124 N. 7th St., Philadelphia, Pa.

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The Cooking Club, 630 7th St., Goshen, Ind., gives recipes and directions every month for the table; secures the choicest foods at less cost than you now pay. The only culinary publication adapted for families with limited incomes. Teaches what and how to economically buy, cook and eat for strength, health and happiness. Only 10 cents for 3 month's trial.

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On a Button, Brooch, Charm, Cuff Buttons or Scarf Pin. Novelties; Beautiful colored sample 6 cents. Illustrated list Free. Address, Empire Supply Co., Jamestown, N. Y.

Aluminum Satin Finished Card Case,

your name elegantly engraved on front; with 100 finest bristol board business or visiting cards, postpaid 50 cts. Geo. J. Koch, Box V, 497, Peoria, Ill.

YOUR FORTUNE TOLD FREE.

I can lay your future before you like an open book. Send date of birth and 10 stamp for revelation of your life and my look telling you how to foretell the future. PROF. DIANE, Room 25, 510 Jackson St., CHICAGO.

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Cure constipation not only relieved but cured. By mail, 50¢ & \$1 Advice free. Address, Dr. Bryant, Kingston, N. Y.

1427

Six Fringe Cards, Love, Transparent, Secret & Augmentation Cards, New Photos, New Games, Premium Articles, etc. Finest Sample Book of Visiting & Hidden Name Cards, Biggest Catalogue. Send 2 stamps for free. OHIO CARD CO., CADIZ, OHIO.

MARJORIE'S CHRISTMAS.

(Continued from page 19)

had ever been hung up in his house—the first time.

Suddenly the old gentleman rose. He lifted the child gently and laid her on a couch which had always been sacred to his own use and covered her with rugs. Then he went softly out and astonished the unsuspecting servants by appearing before them and ordering the carriage.

Could this be old Theodore Roberts, the money machine, the selfish, brusque, irritable old man, this man who went from store to store, ordering and buying and spending money as he never spent it before?

Could this be Mr. Roberts that Mrs. Murray knew, this man who went into the sickroom followed by a great hamper filled with "wine and things and house rent"? Was this the man that all the charitable organizations shunned, this man who drove about half the night, leaving behind him a trail of Christmas rejoicing, mingled with such blessings as he had never heard before?

And who was it that drove up the hill at last under the silent stars, with a carriage full of bundles and with a strange, soft feeling tugging at his heartstrings? He smiled as he went, and yet he had to keep wiping his eyes. He was glad it was dark, so that no one could see.

And what strange figure was this in the study afterwards, this figure that moved so stealthily and that was so busy stuffing the stocking until it was ready to burst, and pinning things all over the outside of it until the bronze Mercury seemed almost to stagger under his burden? What has come over the old gentleman whom so many people envied and whom nobody loved?

Just before day Mrs. Murray coming softly in, found him sitting by the fire, watching the sleeping child.

"It'll be a sad time for her," she said. "Her mother's gone, and whatever's to become of the little thing I don't know."

"I don't see why the child should not stay here, Mrs. Murray," said the old gentleman, with his face turned the other way. "It would be some extra trouble for you, but I dare say you would not mind it."

"S-sir?" Mrs. Murray managed to articulate.

Then the old gentleman turned around, and she saw what was shining on his cheeks.

"Do you see that stocking, Mrs. Murray?" he cried in a voice that she had never heard before.

"That's the first stocking that was ever hung up in my house. It looks homelike, doesn't it? I have decided that we'll have stockings hung up every year. And here's a child that needs a home, and, thank heaven, I've a home to give her."

The child sighed and stirred and then suddenly sat up.

"Did he come?" she cried eagerly, with a dazed look at the bursting stocking, and the old gentleman gathered her up in his arms and said—

"Yes, my little one, he came!"

Music lovers will find in the advertisement of the Tolbert R. Ingram Music Co. elsewhere in this issue an unusually liberal offer whereby a person can obtain ten pieces of new copyrighted music free by giving away five coupons. It is worth investigating.

Agents Wanted

For Mrs. Gen. JOHN A. LOGAN'S Grand New Book THIRTY YEARS IN WASHINGTON.

It reveals the inner life and all the Wonderful Sights and Scenes of our National Capital—Executive, Administrative, Social and Departmental; includes the Lives of all the Presidents, their wives, and every Lady of the White House from Washington to Roosevelt. In magnificent illustrations, fascinating interest, educational value, and rare sale, it is the king of books. To men and women we offer work at home, part time, a book that sells, exclusive territory and fine terms. Freight paid and credit given. Address A. D. WORTHINGTON & CO., Hartford, Conn.

I FURNISH ADVICE
ON ANY SUBJECT—DOMESTIC FAMILY TROUBLES, MARRIAGES, BUSINESS VENTURES, LOVE AFFAIRS, ETC. MY CHARGE IS 25 CENTS ON ANY SUBJECT, BE SURE IN WRITING TO LAY THE WHOLE CASE BEFORE ME. DON'T BE AFRAID TO GIVE THE FACTS OF THE CASE. EVERYTHING IS TREATED AS CONFIDENTIAL. DON H. WILMER, De Soto, Mo.

Big Money Selling Perfumery; Easy Work.
Drop us 2 postal cards. C. L. F. Perfume Co., 1270 Eastwood Ave., Columbus, O.

Rheumatism Positively Cured.

CARLSBAD BLOOD TONIC
A wonderful relief and cure for those suffering from rheumatism. Price \$1.00. Sample Free. Carlsbad Tonic Co., Box 97, Milwaukee, Wis.

FREE To quickly introduce our popular magazine into thousands of new homes. We make the following special offer: To every reader of this paper, send us 25 cts. for a year's subscription to our Ill. Family Magazine will receive absolutely free 5 papers of needles (worth 25c.) 12 fine writing Pens, 1 pkg. sachet powder, 1 "Amer. sugar spoon" or butter knife (worth 5c.) 1 large "song book" and a beautiful novel. Remember each subscriber will be entitled to a 20-word notice in our "Ex. Dept." Send your sub. to-day as the above offer is limited. Money refunded if not satisfied. Add. S. H. Pub. Co. - - Dept. 9, Rodney, Miss.

BABIES NAME BOOKLET.
contains 500 new, odd, curious creations in names. If there is a baby to be named the suggestions of this book are invaluable. Price 25c. Gozzett Garrick, Bloomfield, Indiana.

BABY'S FRIEND and Mother's Joy

White Wonder. Positively cures colds, croup, sniffles, caked breasts. Price 50c. per box. Guaranteed. Quaker Salve Co., Station 10 Hion, N. Y.

8 Excellent Recipes to Mend China, Clean Velvet, Wash Silk, etc. for 10 cents Silver. Acme Supply Co., Sta. F. Washington, D. C.

IMPERISHABLE SACHET PERFUME.

Large package ten cents. All odors, including Jacques Rose and Violet Hello, Delicate, Everlasting. Perfume your Toilet or Fancy Articles. H. Hall, 16 So. Elliott Pl., Brooklyn, N. Y., Dept. 6.

DON'T BE A FOOL.

make home White Star soap from waste soap grease. It floats. Recipe 10 cents. C. W. WARD - - Auburn, Maine

Complete Railroad Train

Consists of Engine, tender and three cars, all metal. The cutest little novelty ever manufactured. Must be seen to be appreciated. 10 cents postpaid, with our large catalogue, W. E. DOERING & CO., 177 Stuyvesant Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

12 Stamped Doilies Only 10c.

All beautiful designs, ready to work. Send stamp for illustrated Catalogue. POQUOT NOVELTY CO., New London, Conn.

AGENT'S MONEY MAKER.

One pint milk makes 1 lb. sweet butter sample powder 10 cents. K. L. SEAMAN, - - Tyndall, S. D.

BIC WEEKLY STORY PAPER.

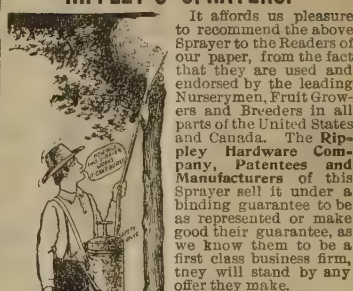
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The simplest remedy for indigestion, constipation, biliousness and the many ailments arising from a disordered stomach, liver or bowels is Ripans Tablets. They have accomplished wonders, and their timely aid removes the necessity of calling a physician for the many little ills that beset mankind. They go straight to the seat of the trouble, relieve the distress, cleanse and cure the affected parts, and give the system a general toning up.

At druggists. The Five-Cent packet is enough for an ordinary occasion. The family bottle, 60 cents, contains a supply for a year.

RIPLEY'S SPRAYERS.



It affords us pleasure to recommend the above Sprayer to the Readers of our paper, from the fact that they are used and endorsed by the leading Nurserymen, Fruit Growers and Breeders in all parts of the United States and Canada. The Ripley Hardware Company, Patentes and Manufacturers of this Sprayer sell it under a binding guarantee to be as represented or make good their guarantee, as we know them to be a first class business firm, they will stand by any offer they make.

This Sprayer is made of Copper and Galvanized Steel in two sizes 4 and 5 Gallons. One point in favor of this Machine is a fine brass pump, which is fitted on the outside of reservoir, which avoids the valves coming in direct contact with the spraying solutions. The pump is connected close to the bottom of the side of reservoir by a copper tube through which the air enters the reservoir, thoroughly agitating the solution at each stroke of the pump handle. The top and bottom heads are heavy double seamed and soldered, back seam strongly riveted and soldered; it has a safety valve and is a very strong sprayer. Also fitted with 3 feet of hose and a fine single Vermorel Sprayer Nozzle; it will spray any kind of solution in the form of a mist, entering every part of the foliage. It will spray trees 25 feet high by using an extension pipe to elevate the Sp. ay. It is fine for White-washing Buildings, Spraying trees and shrubbery of all kinds. We would advise all parties to correspond who are interested in Sprayers, with Ripley Hardware Company, Grafton, Ill. Mentioning Vick's Family Magazine.

AGENTS—\$20 per week easily made selling our combined collar buttons and necktie holders; wonderful sellers; new method; steady work. REDINGTON, Binghamton, New York.

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and use the 20th Century Female Syringe, Safest, Simplest, and Best. Every lady delighted. Send stamp quick for descriptive booklet.

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restores soured fruit or tomatoes. 10c. package enough for 10 quarts. Z. E. NORNY & CO., Box 568, Philadelphia, Pa.

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CANCERS AND Malignant Growths. quickly cured. No operation, no pain or loss of blood or strength. My home treatment will not disappoint you. Write for free, no pay. Herald of Health Free. E. A. Boynton, M. D., Lawrence, Mass.

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Readers! give COME as THOUSANDS TESTIFY. Send date of birth and 10c. for trial reading. L. THOMSON, Kansas City, Mo.

THE DOCTORS SAY!

We make the best medicines in the world. If sick or ailing, write us particulars. Medicine sent on trial, prepaid. Address with stamp H. C. BELLE CO., Chemists, Douglas Park, Chicago.

FREE! FREE!

For distributing six cards, our Gloves, Skirts, Corsets, etc. Worth \$1.50 and \$2.00. Selected from our Catalogue. Send for Catalogue and cards at once and select article wanted. Write first in your letter, D. EDGAR MFG. CO., 449 E. Fifth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

PIMPLES AND BLACKHEADS

entirely removed in 2 to 5 days. Never fails. Send 10c. soft, clear and healthy. Perfectly harmless. Skin left Specific Remedy Co., Dept K S, Cleveland, O.

TALKS ON NATURE, by Dr. J. H. Greer,

is one of the best Marriage Guides ever published. It contains 160 large pages with enough pictures to make the meaning plain, and it gives exactly the information needed by those about to marry. Such books usually sell for \$1.00; our price 25 cents postpaid. APOLLO BOOK CO., Box 561, Glen Ellyn, Ill.

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"Rossman's Cure" is unfailing in Itching, Blind and Bleeding Piles, Fistula and Skin Diseases. Successfully used 40 years. Send 10c. for sample and treatise on "Piles and Cure." Send today to A. McKinsty & Son, Hudson, N. Y.

OPIMUM

and Liquor Habit Cured without inconvenience or detention from business. Write THE DR. J. L. STEPHENS CO., Dept. E, Lebanon, Ohio.

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Send 25 Jewelry Novelties at 10 cents each. Send us money, and we will ship bag at once. Write today. Outfit Free. We trust you! V. PETERSON CO., 172 N. Humboldt St. Chicago, Ill.

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SHIRT WAISTS

\$2.00 MADE TO ORDER **\$2.50**
MATERIAL INCLUDED

made in very latest New York style. Your choice of patterns and colors. You take your own measure by our matchless measurement system. We guarantee it and work to meet high-class expectations. Hundreds of references from many states. Write for samples. We will pay a salary to a reliable lady to represent us in your town.

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LADIES, YOU CAN'T KEEP HOUSE

without our **K. D. Q.** Polishing Cloth. Takes the place of Powders, Pastes, and Liquids for polishing Silverware, Nickel, Copper, Brass and Glass. Does not scratch. Always ready, clean and economical. Once tried, always used. Only 15¢ each, 2 for 25¢ postpaid. A Bonanza for Agents. No postals. Send 15¢ for sample and agents terms. **K. D. Q. MFG CO.**, Station J, New York, N. Y.

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Writing for the Press is a vocation especially adapted to women. Learn to be a story-writer, newspaper-correspondent or reporter. We teach practical Journalism in all branches by mail. Study in spare hours. MSS. sold. Endorsed by leading editors. Write for our free booklet. Address National Press Association, 51 Baldwin Building, Indianapolis, Ind.

\$5 Worth of Music Free

Lust's famous song "My Rosary" (10,000 sold first three months), "Little Africa" cake-walk, (played by U. S. Marine band) and the beautiful march "A Trip to the Rockies." Regular price \$1.50 for the three. We'll send them all for 50 cents and include free, a certificate entitling you to your money back and ten other pieces free. All you have to do is to give away five coupons to musical friends. Greatest music offer of the season. Music all published this year. Write at once. **INGRAM MUSIC CO.**, Denver, Colorado.

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is just as much a result of knowledge as taking care of your mind. If you desire to know how to take care of the body so that it will never become sick or diseased and how to take care of the wife and children, get the best knowledge that is possible. The most complete knowledge published in any language is in the Melville C. Keith books. They give you the best kind of practical knowledge: save you money by saving you doctor's bills; give you the best and best testimony and teach you how to reach one hundred and twenty years without disease or illness of any kind. Postal brings particulars. Keith, Publisher, Belleville, O.

HAIR RESTORED.

Spanish Hair Wine is \$1 and Sarsaparilla Cream 25 cts.

But to assure disappointed sufferers of their true merits, we send **FREE TRIAL BOTTLES OF BOTH** for 4 cents to pay postage. One application stops dandruff, cures baldness, makes luxuriant hair grow on head and face and restores color. \$5.00 offer sent to all using our free trials. **Globe Chemical Works**, K. Baltimore, Md., U. S. A.

COMFORT FOR WOMEN.

We have lately produced a sanitary article both antiseptic and absorbent. It is healthful, cleanly and cheap; recommended by physicians. To use it means health, comfort and happiness. It is cheaper to use it than not to use it. It costs less than to pay laundry bills; after use, destroy removing from sight. We will send a month's supply for trial, postpaid, for only fifteen cents; as you will become our regular customer. Circulars and prices free. Ladies travelling, and boarders need them and so does every woman. Special terms to lady agents. Address, **Woman Co-operative Co.**, West Derry, N. H.

Two Rings Free!

We will give these **TWO SOLID GOLD** ring fingers, one set with large Garnet and three Pearls, one with Ruby and two brilliant **2 1/2 ct.** to any one that will send 12 of our **Gold Plate Enamelled Brooches**, with different colored stones at 10 cents each, and sends us the \$1.20. No money required until brooches are sold. We take back all not sold. Address **HOWARD MFG. CO.**, PROVIDENCE, R. I.

HOME MANUFACTURING

Made Easy. White Rose Cream is an elegant toilet and guest toilet preparation, a good use to self and to make up. Each bottle, sells readily at 15c. Agents sell 10 to 20 bottles a day; anyone can make it. Send 10¢ for 100 bottle printed in two colors, formula for making the Cream, also our label catalogue and sample copy of **Mix's Gripe**, and a lot of other interesting information. How to start manufacturing Patent Medicines, Perfumes, Soaps, Toilet Articles, Flavoring Extracts, and many other household supplies; how to make your own goods and employ agents; how any one can get labels, etc. Send 25¢. We have a new advertisement and work up sales for your goods. 100¢ and hundreds of other inside pointers that every miser should know all for 25¢. Address, **J. M. THORNBOROUGH CO.**, Fort Madison, Iowa.

When Father Comes.

RUTH RAYMOND.

(Written for Vick's Family Magazine.)

When Father comes home from work at night, The room grows wondrous warm and bright. His face sheds such a welcome light Of tender light and cheer. The very children dance about With merry laugh and happy shout. When darling Father's here.

When Father comes home from work at night, The troubles of the day take flight, And all our pleasures we recite. 'Tis joy for him to hear

Of dolls and pets, of lessons learned. His fond approval all have earned, His words of praise are dear.

When Father comes home from work at night, The evening hours take swift flight. Though Winter snows drift cold and white Across the hill and mere.

Within the home 'tis snug and warm, We have no fear of wind and storm, Who look upon his darling form, And know that Father's here.

Bones for Hens.

E. S. GILBERT.

(Written for Vick's Family Magazine)

I suppose the only drawback to the green bone cutters you see advertised is the \$5 to \$10 you have to pay for them; but if a bone cutter census should be taken it would be found, I think, that not one in fifty hen owners had one. Some people burn bones in the stove for hens but this is a great waste of food greatly needed in winter. "Burnt bones will make shells." Just so, but green ones are just as good for this use, and there is a lot of nutriment in the hardest and whitest bone if fed green, not to mention the scraps of meat, gristle, etc. If all the burnt bones were in one pile it would be a big one; and the bones thrown out and wasted entirely would make one still larger. A neighbor brought home a heavy cast-iron pot holding four or five quarts, evidently a cabinet-maker's glue pot, the iron being an inch or more thick. Such a thing set on solid ground with a heavy iron for a pestle would grind bones rapidly. My green bone cutter is a foot of railroad iron. Laying it on its side I put a bone in the recess between the foot of the rail and the head and pound it with a mason's hammer. A couple of inch holes through the iron for the splicing bolts are of service, the bone forced through these is pretty well broken. If the ground is bare I can operate in the midst of the hens and they can chase the flying fragments; in snowy weather it is best to be on a smooth floor sweeping them up with a broom. Feed the bone in an old pan, then any pieces too large to be eaten can be saved till the next pounding day. Large flocks of hens with bones bought by the ton are one thing; the average farmer pounding the bones from his own meat is another. If you are the latter, provide yourself with a railroad iron or the like, and you need not pity yourself very much because you lack a patent bone cutter.

A Great Offer.

We will furnish a yearly subscription to each of the following publications, total value \$3.50 for only \$2.00:

Cosmopolitan, New York.
Woman's Home Companion.
Practical Farmer, Philadelphia.
Vick's Family Magazine.

VICK PUBLISHING CO., ROCHESTER, N. Y.

If You Keep Hens

You can read the Poultry Department of VICK'S FAMILY MAGAZINE also THE AMERICAN POULTRY ADVOCATE and POULTRY SPOONER a full year (\$1.25 worth) for only 75¢. Order of VICK PUBLISHING COMPANY.

CARDS 100 for 35 cents. Visiting Professional & Business. Postpaid promptly. Send for samples. G. Franklin Printing Co., Rochester, N. Y.

A MISER AND HIS GOLD CAN'T PART with your shirtwaist and skirt if you use Anti-Slip supporter easy to fix and sure to please. Send 10¢ for 1. Sande & Co., 194 Kensington Ave. LaGrange, Ill.

FITS Permanently Cured. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Sent for free \$2.00 trial bottle and treatise. Dr. R. H. Kline, Ltd., 331 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

5 Papers best Sewing Needles, and my list of bargains, if you send 6 cents to pay postage and packing. **S. O. CRAFTON, Deer Lick, Ky.**

Test Pelvic Pine Cones for all cases of **BOX** rectal, prostatic or bladder **FREE** disease and complaints of Women. Dr. Foote, 129 East 28th St., N. Y.

DIAMOND RING on Credit. Send 25¢, agree to pay us 10¢ a week for 10 weeks and by return mail receive a genuine sim, Diamond Ring, equal to those usually sold for \$8. Entire satisfaction guaranteed. The M. O. Bargain House, 12-14 Main St., Seaboard, N. C. They are thoroughly reliable. -Ed.

YOU'LL BE SORRY

If you don't send \$1.00 to-night for 100 7 lb. Pkt. Heads: 100 6 1/2 white envelopes; 100 White Bristol Visiting Cards, printed and delivered. Superior quality. Sample and price list free. All kind of printing. **E. H. FARRAR, Printer, Orwell, Pa.**

DO YOU WANT

the best and most convenient Steam Cooker made. I sell it. It saves labor and fuel, and its convenience will surprise you. Sent direct to consumer. You save agents' profits. Sent for descriptive circular. **Wm. E. Williams - Pontiac, Michigan**

ANY LADY suffering with Female Trouble who will send me the names and addresses of 10 women who need treatment, I will send a 4-cent box of the famous "HOME TREATMENT" for women free. Address, **Mrs. Harriet Hartman, Box 455 R. South Bend, Ind.**

Rough on Doctor and Druggist bills. All people can cure themselves at home of nearly all diseases, by a never failing method, without medicine or cost. Send 4 cents in stamps for all Part ulars to Central Supply House, Cape Girardeau, Mo.

WANTED Agents and Managers to work on commission or salary. Address, **Dawson, 16 Washington Pl., E. Orange, New Jersey.**

Myself cured. I will gladly inform any one addicted to **MORPHINE, OPIUM, LAUDANUM** or Cocaine of a never-failing, harmless Home cure. **Mrs. A. Mary Baldwin, P. O. Box 1212, Chicago, Ill.**

RHEUMATISM Positively Cured. If you doubt this, send 10c. (silver) for 7 days' treatment and see the improvement. No fake or fraud. **ALBANY SPECIALTY CO., Palatine Bridge, N. Y.**

NEW MUSIC ALBUM. Over \$5.00 worth of music. We claim is the greatest bargain on the market, and to show you we want you to trade with us all ways, we will send our music album complete for only 10 cts. Address, **DR. H. BUCKEYE NOV. CO., Mt. Vernon, Ohio.**

CALIFORNIA'S OIL BOOM No work—invest \$5.00 and get dividends of \$25.00 per month. \$53 gives you \$250 per month. Write for particulars to **Mr. Hamilton Land & Oil Co., 'L' Rea Bldg., San Jose, Cal.**

Imperishable Sachet Perfume Large package ten cents. **Jacque Rose or Vio de Helio.** D-licite, everlasting, perfume 7 months' work. It will remain odorous. **H. HALL, 16 So. Elliott Place, Brooklyn, N. Y., Sept. 6.**

California Oil Boom No work. \$5 invested gives \$25, \$25, \$250 dividends. Also new plan, 10 per cent. dividend paid quarterly. Real estate security. Write for particulars. **OIL CO., X Rea Bldg., San Jose, Cal.**

RARE STAMPS WANTED. We buy rare stamps and collections for cash. Write for pamphlet "About Stamps" sent free. A stock of over 20,000 different stamps offered for the selection of collectors, prices reasonable. Our business established 1877, conducted entirely by correspondence, customers in every state and county. For beginners 200 different foreign stamps 15¢; 1000 mixed foreign 15¢; Popular stamp album, board covers 30¢. Approval selections for agents, 50 per cent discount. Used Pan-American stamps bought. **McKel Stamp Co., Dept. V. M., St. Louis, Mo.**

Every Woman is interested and should know about the wonderful **MARVEL Whirling Spray** The new Vaginal Syringe. Injection and Suction. Best—Fast—Most Convenient. 15¢ each. Instantly.

Ask your druggist for it. If he cannot supply the **MARVEL**, accept no other, but send stamp for illustrated book—sealed, it gives full particulars and direct order to **valuable ladies, MARVEL CO., 1000 Times Bldg., New York.**

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Delicious Maple Syrup

and Honey can be made for small cost. Good as the genuine. Pure and wholesome. Both recipes sent for 15¢ one cent stamps. 3000 other valuable recipes and formulas. Send today. **A. H. LANE, Dept. A, Keosauqua, Iowa.**

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Chew our remarkable remedy

"SURE QUIT"

and it will wean you. It has weaned thousands, plenty of proofs. Send us \$1.00 for 4 boxes, that's enough to do it, and we will mail with it a Dollar present for your wife.

EUREKA CHEMICAL CO.,
Detroit - - - Michigan

Something New! The Hygeian!!

The new Hose Supporter and Sleeve Holder, it says, it is secure, strong, quick, easy, simple, in does not bind; nickel plated; mailed on receipt of 25 cts. **W. Day, 512 W. N. 8th St., Philadelphia.**

FREE For a little work. To introduce Dr. Adams Headache and Dyspepsia Tablets we make the best offer ever made. Solid Silver Ladies' chainette watch, complete silver Tea Sets, Clocks, Jewelry, and Dolls. We trust you. Write today. **Bridgeport Remedy Co., Dept. F, Box 611, Bridgeport, Conn.**

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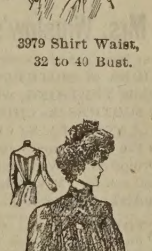
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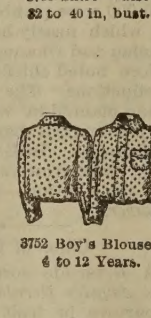
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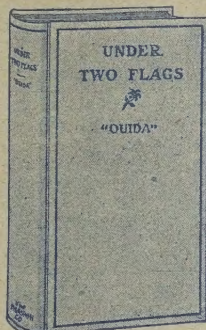
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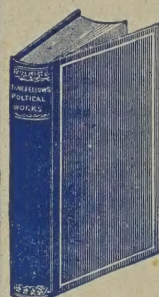
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GIVEN BEFORE PURCHASING

Dr. Horne's \$20 Electric Belt

We send it to your nearest Express Office, Charges Prepaid, and allow you a Free Trial Treatment before purchasing. If satisfactory, pay express agent our Special Advertising Price, Ten Dollars (\$10.00) and take it; otherwise it will be returned at Our Expense.

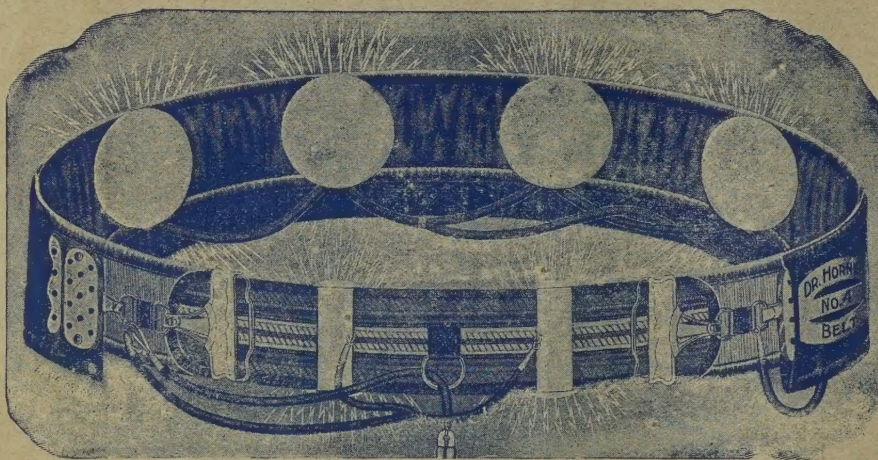
CAN A FAIRER OFFER BE MADE THAN THIS?

TEN DOLLARS

To more quickly introduce Dr. Horne's Electric Belts and Appliances in new localities, we have decided, for a period of 30 days only, to sell Dr. Horne's New Improved, Best and most Powerful \$20.00 Electric Belt together with suspensory attachment for half price, or \$10.00, and give a Free Trial treatment before paying for same.

OUR PROPOSITION IS THIS:

We will send Belt to your nearest express office, all charges prepaid, and allow you a Free Trial treatment before paying for same. If the belt meets with your approval, and you think it is all we represent it to be; pay the express agent our special advertising price, Ten Dollars (\$10.00), and take it; otherwise it will be returned at our expense. You certainly could not ask a fairer offer than this, and it certainly goes to show that we have every confidence in our Belt in making such an offer. We trust that everyone who orders our Belt will do so in good faith, and that no one with dishonorable intentions will take advantage of our liberality when we place the belt in your hands at our own expense. We wish to impress upon your mind that the Belt we are offering you is our regular No. 4 Best \$20.00 Electric Belt with Suspensory Attachment. It is the Best Electric Belt on Earth. It is the Only Belt Used and Prescribed by Physicians. We challenge the combined efforts of all other electric belt companies to produce its equal at any price, show more genuine testimonials, more cures, and more satisfied patients than we can during the past twenty-four years.



The above illustration is photographed direct from our No. 4 Dr. Horne's New Improved, Best and most Powerful \$20 Electric Belt, (Suspensory Attachment for male removed). This belt has a battery consisting of 19 to 23 cells, according to the waist measure of the person wearing it, each one of which is a battery in itself, and six large discs or electrodes which conduct the electric current into the body. The webbing and material used in the manufacture of this belt are of the best. The battery is the finest most durable, most expensive and most powerful made, and we challenge the combined efforts of all other Electric Belt companies to produce its equal at any price. It is the only appliance used and prescribed by physicians.

WHAT OUR BELT WILL CURE

We guarantee it to cure every known disease. We name a few of the most common below:—

Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Lumbago, Sciatica, Weak or Lame Back, Paralysis, Catarrh, Asthma, Sleeplessness, Constipation, Dyspepsia, and all Stomach Troubles, Liver and Kidney Complaints, Weak Heart, Poor Circulation, all Nervous and Weakening Diseases, Spinal Disease, Urinary Troubles, Pain of all Kinds, Piles, Weak Lungs

Blood Impurities, Lost Sexual Vigor, Loss of Vital Fluid, Varicocele, all Female Complaints, and Weaknesses of Women.

There is not a family but what should have one of our Belts, as it is the best and cheapest doctor, and you do not have to go out of the house to get it. It will last you for years with proper care, and will save itself in doctor bills ten times over.

If you want our Belt on the terms stated, carefully fill out the order blank at the bottom of this page and send it to us by return mail, if possible, but not later than the date in the coupon, and we will send it to you by express, charges prepaid. The Belt will be put up in a plain package, without any marks or printed matter to indicate what it contains or who sent it, and will be shipped to you by Mr. David O. Gallen, who is treasurer of our company. This is done that you may be absolutely protected from publicity. Do Not Delay. Order To-Day, if possible, or you may forget it. Please use order blank below.

READ WHAT THE EDITOR OF THIS PAPER SAYS:

"The Dr. Horne Electric Belt and Truss Co., who are making such a liberal offer to the readers of our paper, is by no means a new concern. While they may be unknown to some of our readers, they are an old and reliable house, having manufactured Electric Belts and Appliances for over 24 years. You will see upon reading the advertisement, that they are offering for a limited time a \$20.00 Belt for Half Price, \$10.00 for the purpose of introducing them into new localities. Any of our readers wishing an Electric Belt, cannot do better than order from this concern. The proposition they make is honest in every sense of the word, as any of our readers can, if they wish, have a Free Trial Treatment before paying for the Belt. They do this without asking one cent in advance, which is evidence that they have every confidence in their appliances."

DR. HORNE'S ELECTRIC BELT & TRUSS CO., 985 No. Clark St. CHICAGO

TEAR OFF ON DOTTED LINE

This COUPON

Sent with attached order any time not later than

FEBRUARY 10, 1902

By any Reader of
VICK'S MAGAZINE

will entitle the holder to a
Free Trial Treatment

of
DR. HORNE'S
\$20.00 ELECTRIC BELT
before purchasing

ORDER BLANK

Date.....190

DR. HORNE ELECTRIC BELT AND TRUSS CO., Chicago.

Dear Sirs:—Please send me by express, all charges prepaid, one of your No. 4 Dr. Horne's New Improved Regular \$20.00 Electric Belts with Spiral Suspensory Attachment for a Free trial treatment before paying for same. I order this Belt in good faith and if I am satisfied with it I will pay the express agent Ten Dollars (\$10) and take it—otherwise it will be returned at your expense.

Name,

Street and Number,

Post Office,

County, State,

Nearest Express Office, Inches

IMPORTANT—Take measure on bare skin at base of spine, just above hips, with Tape Measure or String

Our Guarantee

We guarantee the Belt we are now offering you for only \$10 to be

Our No. 4 Best \$20.00 Electric Belt

It is the same Belt you would get if you paid us \$20.00. It is the best we make and there is none better made at any price. We back up our guarantee with a

\$5,000.00 Reward